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A METRO SPECIAL FOCUS ON PEDESTRIANS

CAN YOU MAKE IT?

The countdown is on to see if Toronto will follow New York City's lead on 'common-sense' rules for crosswalks metroNEWS

EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

I break pedestrian rules at least a dozen times a day. And I'm not sorry Matt Elliott, metroVIEWS

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Your essential daily news

Moustache-sporting, red sweater-wearing Kenneth Bone is America's presidential debate hero. **World**

Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"I think I was 10. My mom bought me this dinosaur zip-up onesie that had a hood and horns. It was for Halloween, but I wore it for like a whole year, and my mom would let me run around the neighbourhood in it. I used to imagine that I would be in the news — 'strange creature sighted.' I used to wish that would happen, but I'm pretty sure the whole neighbourhood knew it was just me dressed up in a dinosaur onesie.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans of Toronto on Instagram.

Campaign tries to shape U.S. election

POLITICS

Group urging ex-pats to vote against 'a real global threat'

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

As a Canadian, Abbas Qureshi can't vote in the upcoming American presidential election. But that hasn't stopped him from trying to shape its outcome.

The 39-year-old Toronto resident is one of dozens of Canadians who volunteered their time Monday fielding calls to thousands of Americans living in the GTA and other parts of the country.

Their goal is twofold: Getting more American ex-pats registered to vote, and asking them to vote against Donald Trump.

"Canada works hand in hand with the U.S., but Canada cannot work hand in hand with Trump," said Qureshi, who is concerned by comments Trump has made about Muslims.

"As a Muslim Canadian, I need to tell Americans that this election is important not just for you, but for the whole world.

"We need somebody who is peaceful, not an obnoxious man, to be in a powerful position," he said.

Monday's exercise was organized by Avaaz, a global organization that advocates on issues ranging from climate change to democratic participation and human rights.

Avaaz organizer Andrew Nazdin says Donald Trump's stance on issues like climate change, nuclear weapons and women's rights would make the world a more dangerous place.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Local Avaaz organizer Andrew Nazdin hopes members of the diaspora can impact the result of the election — especially in so-called "swing states."

He said the ex-pat voters they've contacted so far are "overwhelmingly progressive" and excited to get out and vote.

Nazdin called Trump "a real global threat," and said his policies on issues like climate change, nuclear weapons and women's rights would make the world "a lot less" safe.

"The Avaaz community wants to make sure he gets nowhere near the White House because he would ruin everything that we love," he said.

Voter turnout has been a recurring issue among American ex-pats.

According to the federal Voting Assistance Program, only four per cent of an eligible 2.6 million eligible voters living abroad cast a ballot in 2014.

55,630

The number of American citizens live in the GTA, according to 2011 data from Statistics Canada. Overall, 316,000 American citizens live in Canada.

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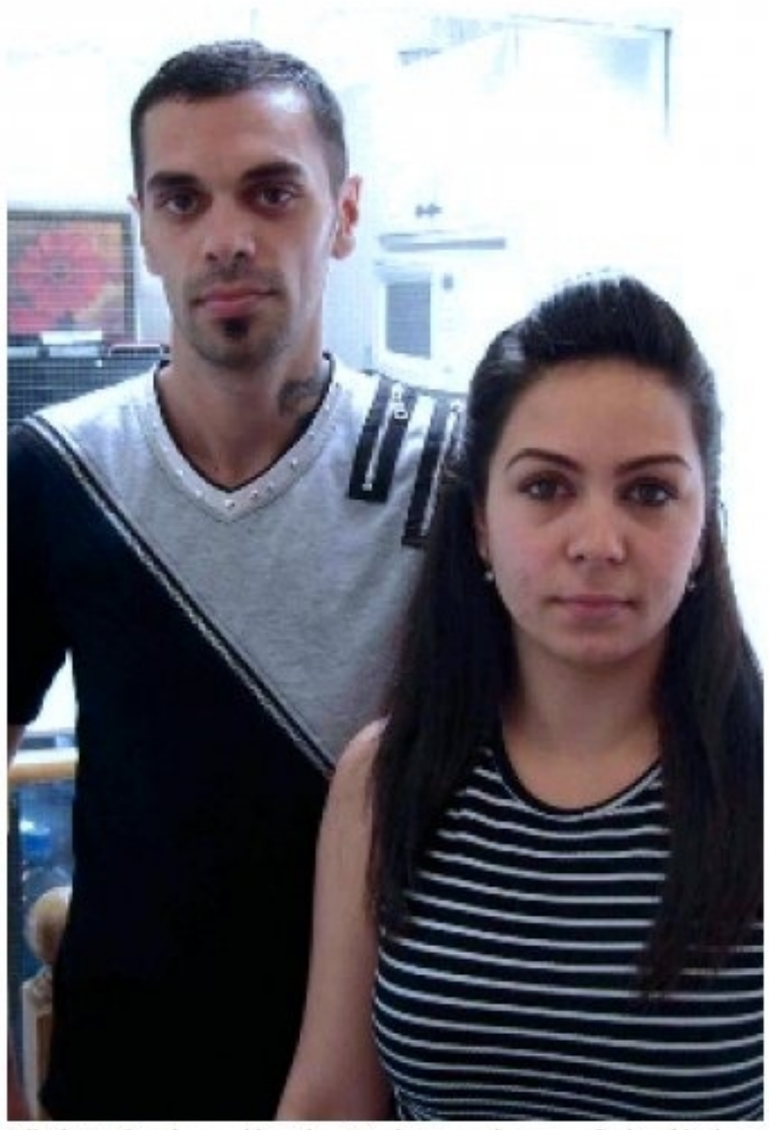

Nikoletta Szarka and brother Norbert are happy a federal judge has overruled a previous decision dismissing their family's wish for asylum. Yet it may take years for their claim to be heard again due to a backlog. COURTESY NICHOLAS KEUNG

Judge criticized as family of refugees wins appeal

COURT

Reasoning for refusal 'neither intelligible nor transparent'

Nikoletta Szarka said she cringed when she learned the refugee judge who would preside over her family's case was going to be David McBean.

And she said it came as no surprise when her family's refugee claim was rejected last October after a four-year delay by the adjudicator who is known for his extremely low acceptance rate. Hence, they took their appeal to the Federal Court of Canada — and won.

"Our case is true and we never lied to Mr. McBean, but we felt he would reject us no matter what we had to say," said Szarka, 25, who, along with 12 other members of the Roma family, came to Canada from Hungary for asylum in 2011.

"We are just happy that the (federal court) judge heard us and agreed with us."

In a recent ruling to dismiss the rejection of the Szarkas' asylum claim and order a new refugee hearing for the family, Justice Patrick Gleeson not only named McBean — a rare occurrence — but was critical of the reasoning behind his decision, calling it "neither intelligible, nor transparent."

"This court may grant relief where a tribunal has based its decision on an erroneous finding of fact that it made in a perverse or capricious manner or without regard to the material before it," Gleeson wrote in his 11-page judgment.

"What I would charitably characterize as a disjointed and disorganized hearing of the matter, coupled with the unexplained delay in rendering a timely decision, may well have contributed to the errors. The decision is unreasonable."

The Szarkas' asylum claim was heard by McBean in five separate sittings, with the last one in January 2015 after the refugee judge said he failed to question some of the family members. McBean, in his conclusion of the case, found the family generally lacked credibility and he said he did not believe their claim of persecution and discrimination.

"Since I do not believe anything in the claimants' evidence, to find in their favour, I would have to find that all Roma people in Hungary face more than a mere possibility of persecution regardless of their circumstances," wrote McBean, who was appointed a refugee judge in 2008 until 2015, when his appointment ended.

> **Our case is true and we never lied to Mr. McBean, but we felt he would reject us no matter what we had to say.** Nikoletta Szarka

"For this to happen, Hungary would have to essentially be in a state of complete breakdown."

In his decision, Gleeson criticized McBean for making his credibility findings based on "microscopic distinctions or conjecture."

The federal judge also chastised McBean for relying on discrepancies between the statement the family gave at the port of entry in 2011 and testimony they gave before the refugee tribunal after a four-year lapse to support other negative credibility findings.

While Szarka is happy with the court order to quash McBean's decision and refer the case to a new adjudicator for redetermination, it could take years before the family's claim is heard again.

The refugee board is struggling to clear 6,000 legacy claims filed before December 2012, when a new system started imposing statutory timelines to hear new claims and pushed the old claims like the Szarkas' further back in the queue. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toronto Hurling Club players on a field at Centennial Park in Etobicoke. COURTESY ROB COLBURN PHOTOGRAPHY

RECREATION

Lace up your cleats, get soccer kicks in

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The city of Mississauga is gauging community interest in soccer by mounting a temporary field and letting people in the neighbourhood get their kicks in. The portable pitch, the first of its kind in Canada, comes complete with artificial turf, boards, goals and netting.

It's part of a pilot project encouraging people to drop in for informal soccer play. City staff will continuously monitor the use of the pitch through October, to learn what needs to be done to meet people's recreation needs.

Officials in Toronto are keeping an eye on the project as they develop a 20-year plan to guide investment in sports and recreation, said Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation spokesperson Matthew Cutler.

Doug Blair, general manager of the North Toronto Soccer Club, would love to see pop-up pitches in the city. It's tough to play pick-up soccer, he says, because Toronto's existing fields are always busy.

"The number of kids playing soccer is increasing all the time," he said.

Since last week the portable pitch has been installed at Community Common Park in downtown Mississauga, and will soon move to other parts of the city — including right in the heart of Square One.

"That's the beauty of this product. It can go on turf, it can go on asphalt, ground or gravel," said Gavin Longmuir, Mississauga's manager of parks operations. "For us it presented an excellent opportunity to test it especially in high density neighbourhoods with little space."

So far, crowds of kids flock to play pick up soccer after school and on weekends, Longmuir said. That's an indication that it could attract even more people in the summer months, he added.

Celebrating ethnic sport

CULTURE

Newcomers bring diversity of physical activities

Hurling, Ireland's national sport, is just one example of the many "physical cultures" introduced to Canada through immigration — the focus of a new project led by University of Toronto kinesiology professor Peter Donnelly.

The project — funded by the Sport Canada Research Initiative — recently launched a database of ethnic physical activities, gtactivity.ca, profiling some 150 sports, games, dances, exercise systems and martial arts that have come and gone in Greater Toronto with the immigration flow.

From aboriginal snowshoeing to Azonto, a pan-African dance recently popularized by Ghanaian youth on social media, the project is a wealth of information.

"We'd like the website to be an organic, living archive of what is new, what is gone and what is changed in the physical culture of Canada," said Donnelly.

Through the database, Donnelly and researchers are examining the integration and inclusion of new Canadians through physical activities, and what factors play into the passing-on of their physical culture.

Initial findings show the size and social status of an immigrant community, as well as an activity's affordability and accessibility, are key to the upkeep of an ethnic sport, game or dance, said Donnelly.

Such physical activities and culture can only be sustained and grow if the community can broaden the base of membership outside of their own.

Torontonian Laura Molinari first learned about capoeira — a mix of martial arts, acrobatics, dance and music with roots in Angola and the Congo — when she visited Brazil in 2003 to learn Portuguese. She searched for capoeira classes in Greater Toronto upon her return and found only four places that offered the program. She has been a member of Capoeira Malês since.

"The awareness for sure has grown from 12 years ago when I came back from Brazil," said Molinari, 42. "People see it (practised) on the street, on TV and in movies, and they want to learn about it."

When her master, Waldecir de Souza, a.k.a. Mestre Lua, first came to Canada in 1997, he only had a handful of students per class, but now it has grown to about 25. "You don't have enough students to pay the bills, but I keep doing it because I love capoeira and I want to keep it alive," said de Souza.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Laura Molinari practising capoeira. NICK KOZAK/TORONTO STAR

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Chaos at the crosswalk: A Metro Special Focus

Adopt a New York state of mind

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Advocacy group calls for city to follow the lead of the Big Apple

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

It's a familiar sight at busy intersections across Toronto. The countdown starts and pedestrians dart across the street thinking they still have 15, 10, or even 5 seconds left to make it.

But according to the Highway Traffic Act, it's against the law to start crossing when the hand is flashing, which is when the countdown starts.

Both the police and Mayor John Tory are reminding pedestrians about the law, as part of an education and enforcement blitz aimed at clearing congestion.

However, while police and politicians in Toronto are cracking down on pedestrians, New York City scrapped the countdown law altogether last month — framing it as a matter of life and death.

"Nearly every day, someone is injured or killed crossing our streets and it is past time we update our laws to adequately protect pedestrians," said New York's Public Advocate, Letitia James, after city council unanimously approved the change.

"This common sense legislation will ensure that countdown clocks accurately portray the time pedestrians have to cross our streets," James added.

John Tory and the Toronto Police Service has been cracking down on pedestrians who start crossing once the signal countdown has started. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Pedestrians in the Big Apple are now allowed to start crossing during the countdown, until the 'don't walk' signal appears.

According to New York councillor Ydanis Rodriguez, the change closes a legal "loophole" that let drivers off the hook for collisions with pedestrians were crossing during the countdown.

"In cases when a pedestrian would get struck by a motorist while they had the flashing signal, the police and prosecutors would say the motorist was not at fault," said Ben Fried, editor of the active transportation website Streetsblog. Fried said many New Yorkers were surprised this wasn't already the law.

Dylan Reid of the pedestrian advocacy group Walk Toronto said he'd like to see the same changes made in Toronto, as many people start crossing on countdowns anyway.

The Ministry of Transportation has said it has no plans to revise the Highway Traffic Act, but Reid said the city should push provincial officials to reconsider.

"At the moment our laws don't really match the assumption and the infrastructure," he said.

Last week, Toronto resident Ev Delen challenged Mayor John Tory to cross the road at University Avenue and Queen Street in a single light, while obeying the pedestrian countdown law. The mayor has yet to agree to Delen's challenge. LEFT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE; RIGHT: METRO

BE HEARD

Do you think it's time we changed our pedestrian countdown laws, or are you OK waiting on the curb? Do you obey the law or are you a crosswalk scofflaw? Let us know what you think — and what you do — at readers@metronews.ca. You can also share your thoughts on Twitter using Metro's #TODeadlyStreets hashtag.

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TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

Pedestrian traffic fatalities in 2016

NEW FATALITY
Eglinton Ave W & Hilltop Rd

Fri. Sept. 30-A 96-year-old man was hit by a driver as he tried to cross Eglinton, police said. He died Oct. 6.

NEW FATALITY
Eglinton Ave E & Midland Ave

Sun. Oct. 2 - A 72-year-old woman was hit by a driver as she tried to cross Eglinton, police say. She died Oct. 5.

NEW FATALITY
Eglinton Ave E & Winter Ave

Sun. Oct. 2 - Police say an 81-year-old man on a mobility scooter was trying to cross Eglinton when he was hit by a driver. He died Oct. 5.

LATEST FATALITIES

30 St Regis Crescent & Tuscan Gate
Fri. Sept. 16 - An 82-year-old man in a wheelchair was struck by a truck driver

29 Finch Ave E & Skymark Dr
Fri. Aug. 19 - According to police, an 80-year-old man was hit and killed

28 Gerrard & George
Mon. Aug. 15 — A pedestrian was killed in a hit-and-run about 6 p.m.

27 Highway 427 at Dixon Road
Fri. Aug. 12 - A 69-year-old man was hit and killed by a passing car.

26 Finch Ave W & Talbot Rd
Fri. Aug. 5 - A pedestrian was hit by a car about 12:30 p.m.

25 Kingston Rd & Saunders Rd
Fri. July 29 - Two pedestrians were struck. One victim died in the hospital

24 Parliament St & Shuter St
Thurs. July 28 - An 82-year-old man was hit by a truck

23 Islington Ave & Albion Rd
Tues. July 5 - A 55-year-old man was hit by a driver

22 740 Dupont St
Tues. July 5 - A 71-year-old cyclist dies after swerving to avoid a left-turning van

21 Kipling Ave & Brookmere Rd
Mon. July 4 - A 73-year-old man hit by the driver of a van

20 Dynevor Rd & Eglinton Ave W
Wed. June 22 - a man in his 60s was hit by a driver

19 St Clair Ave E & Danforth Rd.
Fri. June 17 - A 21-year-old woman was hit by a van

18 McCowan Rd & Lawrence Ave E.
Wed. June 15 - A man in his 60s is struck and killed

17 Bremner Blvd & Spadina Ave.
Tues. May 14, 2016 - A 38-year-old woman

16 Avenue Rd & Felbrigg Ave.
Sun. May 1 - An elderly man was found without vital signs.

15 Eglinton Ave E & Beachell St.
Mon. April 25 - A 62-year-old man was struck and killed.

TEXT: METRO
GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

FLEMINGDON

Food bank trouble 'surprises' agency

A food bank that serves new Canadians in one of the poorest and most densely populated neighbourhoods of Toronto says they are deep in debt and often short of food.

The Flemingdon Community Food Bank's chair confirmed the organization is now $90,000 in rent arrears, and has recently experienced food shortages.

A Sept. 22 press release claimed that the charity was about to close imminently "due to a food shortage with our supplier the Daily Bread Food Bank."

But Gail Nyberg, the executive director of Daily Bread — which distributes food to 130 member agencies including the Flemingdon Community Food Bank — said the urgent appeal for food caught her off guard. "We have no shortage of food at all," she said. "They may (have one) and we don't — (but) they haven't told us that they do."

According to the Daily Bread, 98,395 pounds of food have been sent to the Flemingdon food bank since Jan. 1, which is up from 87,909 pounds last year.

"The thing that interests me is saying it is due to a food shortage. We're quite surprised at this. They don't provide all of the food to Flemingdon," said Nyberg, but "the lion's share." The Daily Bread has also written off money that Flemington owes them.

There are talks between Daily Bread, the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office, Flemingdon Community Legal Services, local MP Robert Oliphant and other interested parties who "are prepared to take over the program," said Nyberg. The plan is to set up a new bank and they are actively searching for affordable space.

BY THE NUMBERS

$90K

Flemingdon Community Food Bank says it is now $90,000 in rent arrears.

80%

In any given week, 80 per cent of the shelves are empty at the food bank.

13

Just a few weeks ago, the bank turned away 13 families, it confirmed.

The various organizations are "prepared to step up and open a food bank in that area, but not one affiliated with this particular Board of Directors," Nyberg added. "You can't get yourself into this much trouble."

Abdul Hai Patel, who's been the chair of the Flemingdon Community Food Bank's board of directors for six years, told Torstar that rent in the basement suite of 10 Gateway Blvd. is $2,800 a month, but that their landlord, the Lakemount Development Corporation, "has been very gracious (allowing us) to stay here."

Patel was not aware of another food bank opening. "We will see what happens if and when it opens," he said. "And we will continue to serve as we are and as long as we are a member of the Daily Bread… We are not closing." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Archival images of Yonge Street in the '80s show it awash in neon signs, including the iconic Sam the Record Man sign. These signs may be resurrected on O'Keefe Lane, as part of a neon sign museum envisioned by the Downtown Yonge BIA. PHOTOS LEFT AND UPPER RIGHT COURTESY CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES/LOWER RIGHT TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Neon museum to put city's past up in lights

CULTURE

Business group seeks partners to showcase historic signs

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

Downtown Yonge Street in the early '80s was a neon-soaked jungle.

The electric signs for Zanzibar strip club, Sam the Chinese Food Man, the Rio grindhouse cinema, and A&A Records cut through the night in a blaze of colour.

Much of that neon signage has since vanished, a casualty of new sign bylaws and sky-high material costs.

But neon could still make a comeback on Yonge Street, says Mark Garner, the executive director of the Downtown Yonge BIA.

The BIA is looking for partners interested in turning O'Keefe Lane into an outdoor signage museum.

The laneway, which runs parallel to Yonge Street south of Dundas Street, would showcase famous Toronto signs neon and explore the histories of the businesses that owned them.

"Torontonians generally have what I call historical amnesia. They forget the legacy of iconic buildings and signs," Garner said.

"Signage has been such an iconic thing for Toronto that we need to preserve it."

The BIA has already started a collection of Yonge Street signs that includes Sunrise records and Big Slice Pizza. The famous Sam the Record Man sign, which is currently being restored ahead of reinstallation at Yonge-Dundas Square, could form part of the exhibit, too.

Last month, Toronto photographer Tanja-Tiziana published a book on North America's vanishing neon signs. She feels many of Toronto's "legendary" neon signs are worthy of display.

"They need to be within a distance from us and the street so they have that same effect. So we can see their detail, paint work, and walk through their light by night," she said.

Garner said the BIA is in contact with Markle Brothers, who created many famous Yonge Street neon signs, including Sam the Record Man, about the possibility of restoring lost signs from the original blueprints.

"We're trying to find like-minded, like-hearted people that thing it's a great project to help bring it to fruition," he said.

TRENDS

Don't poo-poo café till you've stepped in it

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

When it comes to Toronto's new poop-themed café, customers just gotta go.

Poop Café on Bloor Street West opened its doors Saturday, and business has been anything but constipated. The store has had lineups outside and clients flowing in until past midnight every day, said owner Lien Nguyen.

"People go crazy," she said, noting clients are curious when they see the poop sign outside.

On Monday, Audrey Pangilinan examined the menu before settling on a mango bingsu.

"I hope it tastes better than it looks," she says.

Pretty much every item at Poop Café will remind you of the washroom — from chairs resembling toilets and water cups in the shape of urinals. Even the menu looks like a pile of feces.

"It's weird. We don't normally talk about this when we are eating, but it's related, right?" said Pangilinan.

"That look makes it so special, I guess," said Victoria Meng, a McMaster student who travelled all from Mississauga with six of her friends to eat a poop-shaped Korean waffle.

Nguyen said she got the idea from eating at a toilet-shaped restaurant in Taiwan.

Lien Nguyen, the owner of Toronto's first Poop Cafe on Bloor Street West. The feces-themed café opened on Saturday.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Let's talk about this year's outstanding Community Fund recipients.

Congratulations to the 72 recipients of the 2016 Bell Let's Talk Community Fund.

Each year, Bell provides $1 million in grants to help community-based mental health organizations improve overall access to support and services for Canadians living with mental illness.

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Learn more by visiting the Community Fund section on bell.ca/letstalk.

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Canadian Mental Health Association – Calgary Region

Canadian Mental Health Association – Thunder Bay Branch

Canadian Roots Exchange

CDFM huron-wendat

Centre de prévention du suicide 02

Centre de rétablissement le Renfort

Centretien de Nicolet et Régions

CÉPOP – Centre d'écoinitiatives populaires

Child and Family Centre

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Inspire Community Outreach Inc.

Jewish Child and Family Service, Winnipeg

Le Havre, groupe d'aide et d'entraide en santé mentale

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Logis Rose-Virginie

Madison Community Services

Manitoba Schizophrenia Society

Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Fire Services

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre

Northern Integrated Cultures with the Environment (Northern ICE)

Partners for Care

Partners for Youth

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services

Point de rue

Revivre

ROCK

Seniors Resource Centre of Newfoundland and Labrador

Service d'intégration travail – Mauricie

Siloam Mission

Smiths Falls & District Centre for Youth

St. Joseph's Health Care London

St. Stephen's Community Housing

Student-Athlete Mental Health Initiative

TAIBU Community Health Centre

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Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society

Village des sources l'Étoile filante

Westcoast Family Centres Society

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

Bell Let's Talk

METRO ARTIST TAKE

REMIXING THE 6IX

Justin Main is more than a photographer. He's a digital artist whose work starts on a camera and then gets "mixed" on Photoshop to incorporate additional layers. Most of the time, those layers add meaning to the photo — whether it's a whimsical take on Toronto or a serious message about what's happening in the world around us. METRO

How do you come up with ideas for these images?
I do daily brainstorming sessions and always try to surround myself with creative people. A lot of my work is actually just thinking like a kid and being able to Photoshop it into reality.

How do people respond to them?
It is really nice to see the response of people to my work. One of my goals is to have that "wow" factor and leave a lasting impression. I feel great when people like what they see. I just try to be myself, be different.

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Does Toronto need a downtown roller coaster?
Yes! I love coasters and I think it'd be a nice way to bypass traffic.

Where can people see more of your work?
People can see my work on Instagram @photified or on Facebook by searching Justin Main.

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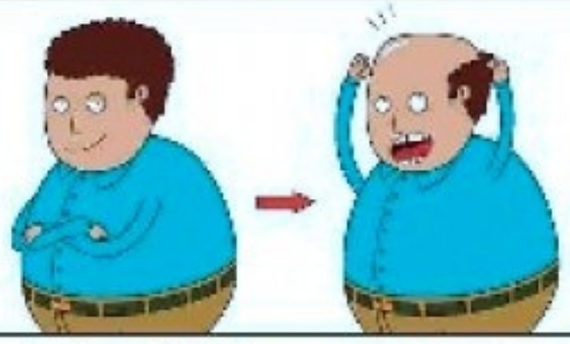

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House at centre of terror lawsuit

COURTS

Tied to 1983 bombings in Beirut

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Passers-by or vandals curious about the seemingly abandoned property at 2 Robinson Avenue in Sandy Hill might assume it has stood empty for four years because of an ordinary reason, such as trouble selling it.

Instead, the warehouse-like property in Ottawa is in legal limbo — the focus of a complex international court case that ties the building to foreign espionage and 1983 bombings in Beirut.

Now the white-brick building stands quiet. Sometimes, different-coloured cars occupy the overgrown asphalt driveway, but the lights are never on inside.

While the building has been quiet, the international legal battle for its control has not.

Since 2012, the state of Iran has been struggling to resist the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, introduced by the Harper government, in Canadian courts. The act allows victims of violence to seek legal damages from states that fund government-designated terrorist groups.

The majority of the plaintiffs involved in the lawsuit, many of whom have lost family to bombings abroad, were awarded large sums in the U.S. The Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act allows them to continue claiming those sums in Canada.

The Sandy Hill property is estimated to be worth close to $3 million, and it's one of the non-diplomatic assets the U.S. victims are seeking.

1 Peeling sign — 2 Robinson Ave. is a piece of Sandy Hill real estate involved in a legal battle between U.S. citizens and Iran.

2 Abandoned — A car outside the seemingly abandoned property at 2 Robinson Ave.

3 Lawn care needed — The overgrown yard outside 2 Robinson Ave.

4 Tagged — A photo of the entrance to the former Iranian Cultural Centre taken in 2015, before anti-graffiti measures were introduced.

5 Under surveillance — Security cameras outside 2 Robinson Ave.

HALEY RITCHIE / METRO

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The typo that changed her life

GOVERNMENT

Refugee faces deportation over misspelled first name

A typo could be costly, especially when it's in the name on the ID of a refugee claimant.

In a rare appeal case, Ottawa has overturned a decision to grant refugee status to a Nigerian woman, in part because of a misspelling of her name in a government birth document from Lagos. Gift Daniel, 32, now faces deportation from Canada at any time.

What was unusual with the government's appeal is that immigration officials did not challenge Daniel's claim that she was a victim of female genital mutilation and domestic abuse, but contested her credibility on the grounds that she is not who she claims to be.

A misspelling of her name on a government birth document has cost Gift Daniel her asylum in Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Daniel, a hairstylist from Benin, arrived in Canada in February 2015 using a false Canadian passport under the name of Desiree Dobson and filed an asylum claim upon landing at Pearson International Airport. She was also in possession of a Social Insurance Number card, birth certificate and driver's licence under the same name, according to federal government officials.

Daniel claimed she was forced to undergo female circumcision in 2012 and was sold by her father a year later to an older man who sexually, physically and psychologically abused her before she fled Nigeria with the help of a smuggler. The refugee board confirmed there was documented evidence of genital mutilation.

Upon her arrival in Canada, Daniel said she declared her real identity to officials as "Gift Daniel" and provided a birth document and driver's licence issued by the Nigerian government as proof.

However, a border enforcement official quickly noticed her birth document spelled her name as "Gife" while her licence spelled it "Gift" — setting off questions by Canadian officials over her identity.

She was detained at the Rexdale immigration holding centre for three months until her release on May 13, 2015, when she was granted refugee status.

Despite concerns over Daniel's identity, refugee judge Shamshuddin Alidina, in granting her asylum, wrote the tribunal "believes, on a balance of probability, that the claimant has persuasively established her identity as Gift Daniel from Nigeria."

While Daniel has insisted she only became aware of the typo after it was spotted by the border official, the different spellings of her name in her identity documents triggered the government's challenge to the refugee appeal tribunal to overturn the asylum decision.

"Identity is clearly an important fact, so important that if not established, there is no need to further analyze the evidence and the claim must fail," the government said in its appeal. "Absent a properly established identity, a matter of utmost importance to refugee determination, the claimant cannot be considered to be a credible witness on the material aspects of her claim for refugee protection."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EQUALITY

Gregoire-Trudeau to open TSX

Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau will open the trading day at the Toronto Stock Exchange on Tuesday to mark International Day of the Girl.

Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau CP

She is collaborating with three charitable organizations — G(irls)20, Plan International Canada and FitSpirit — to show how important it is for girls to have equal opportunities to boys.

Farah Mohamed, CEO of G(irls)20, said it's also important for people to realize that investing time and resources into girls pays off. The organization frames women's and girl's equality differently from other organizations, using financial language. Mohamed says girls are a resource in which businesses and governments should invest. Mohamed says when women earn a salary, they tend to put most of the money they make back into the community, which raises the GDP. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

U.S. looks to emulate Canada's private refugee-sponsor system

The United States appears to be working toward a system for privately sponsoring refugees, potentially making it the latest country to emulate the program Canada has deployed during the Syrian migration crisis.

A group that works with the government on resettling refugees says a pilot project is in the works. An assistant secretary of state reportedly referred to it at a public forum. Canada's immigration minister says he has heard about a pilot project, and one small-government advocate says he's been advising policy-makers on it.

David Bier of the libertarian Cato Institute said he used the experience of the northern neighbour while making the case to government officials that the private sector could play a bigger role in resettling refugees.

He said there was initial reticence when he first discussed it last year with government officials, but he said the White House became enthusiastic and the State Department got involved in the details.

In the meantime, the Canadian program started getting international attention.

"The fact that it was already in operation in Canada and had proven successful was invaluable to our advocacy," Bier said in an interview. "I have no doubt that this is going to happen (in the U.S.)."

The Canadian program allows people to sponsor a refugee for $12,600, which includes help with income and initial costs like groceries and rent. Nearly half the Syrian refugees Canada brought in starting late last year entered through private or quasi-private initiatives.

At least 13 countries have made inquiries about emulating the program, said Canada's immigration minister John McCallum. Australia and New Zealand have adopted such programs, and McCallum said the United Kingdom is working on one.

He said he's happy to offer technical advice.

"We're definitely the pioneers in it," he said in an interview. "I think this is a model that would be of some value all over the world, given that we face a huge global refugee crisis." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets newly arrived Syrian refugees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'People will die' without aid

HAITI

Hurricane Matthew leaves trail of devastation

A woman and a child sit on a buckets amid the ruins of their home destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, in Jeremie, Haiti, Monday, Oct. 10, 2016. DIEU NALIO CHERY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At a cramped police station serving as a makeshift clinic, Darline Derosier fastened IV drips to jail cell bars, wiped the brows of cholera patients and tended to the wounds of those injured when Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti's southwestern peninsula.

She was the only health worker helping about 40 patients Monday inside the station bereft of police as she waited for help to arrive in the hard-hit town of Marfranc nearly a week after the Category 4 storm struck Oct. 4.

Among the patients was an elderly woman lying unconscious on a jail cell floor with a leg bandaged in an old rag and a man with gashes around his neck, his eyes fluttering.

"People will die soon if we don't get some aid," an overwhelmed Derosier said.

The town is a 45-minute drive southwest from the coastal city of Jeremie, where food, medicine and fresh water are finally arriving but still slow to reach increasingly desperate communities.

"We haven't received anything from Jeremie," Derosier said.

The UN humanitarian agency in Geneva made an emergency appeal Monday for nearly $120 million in aid, saying about 750,000 people in southwest Haiti alone will need "life-saving assistance and protection" in the next three months. UN officials said earlier that at least 1.4 million people across the region need assistance and that 2.1 million overall have been affected by the hurricane. Some 175,000 people remain in shelters.

Electricity was still out, water and food were scarce, and officials said young men in villages along the road between the hard-hit cities of Les Cayes and Jeremie were building blockades of rocks and broken branches to halt relief convoys.

A convoy of food, water and medicine was attacked by gunmen in a remote valley where there had been a mudslide, said Frednel Kedler, co-ordinator for the Civil Protection Agency in the Grand-Anse Department, which includes Jeremie.

The National Civil Protection headquarters in Port-au-Prince raised the official nationwide death toll to 372, which included at least 198 deaths in Grand-Anse. But local officials have said the toll in Grand-Anse alone tops 500.

The UN also said the hurricane has increased the risk of a "renewed spike" in the number of cholera cases. A cholera outbreak since 2010 has already killed roughly 10,000 people and sickened more than 800,000.

Roosevelt Zamos of the Civil Protection Agency said there were 40 cases of cholera in Jeremie alone. He said eight people have died of cholera in Grand-Anse since the storm.

The open-air cholera treatment centre at Jeremie's main hospital had no running water Monday, and at least a dozen of the new patients were under age 10.

Etienne Chimene tried her best to soothe her 13-month-old son, Cenelson, who was lying in a wooden bed with a hole cut in it and a bucket underneath.

"I feel like my baby is getting worse," she said as she stroked his head and he whimpered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Ken Bone an Internet sensation

While supporters of GOP nominee Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton bicker following the second presidential debate, one participant is being greeted with universal approval: Kenneth Bone.

Kenneth Bone TWITTER.COM

The mustachioed undecided voter from Illinois clad in a red sweater and khakis became an internet sensation Sunday night when he took part in the town hall-style forum by asking the candidates about energy policy.

In a Monday morning interview with St. Louis radio station KFNS, he explained that he was initially unaware of his newfound celebrity because participants in the forum weren't allowed to have smartphones. Bone says he received hundreds of Facebook friend requests and gained thousands of Twitter followers.

"I'm going as myself for Halloween. It will be the best costume ever," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Delivery by drones coming to Canada

TECHNOLOGY

First services as close as 2017, company's CEO believes

Paul Di Benedetto, CEO of Drone Delivery Canada Inc., with their third prototype in their Vaughan office. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drone Delivery Canada began testing drones over a field at the University of Waterloo this week, joining an elite club of companies worldwide vying to drive drones from the prototype stage into commercial use.

"We're all in the same boat, we're all developing this technology, we're perfecting the platforms and once the legislation is there then everyone becomes operational," said Tony Di Benedetto, Drone Delivery Canada CEO.

While drone deliveries by air may seem like part of a distant future, those inside the industry say it's on the cusp of becoming a reality.

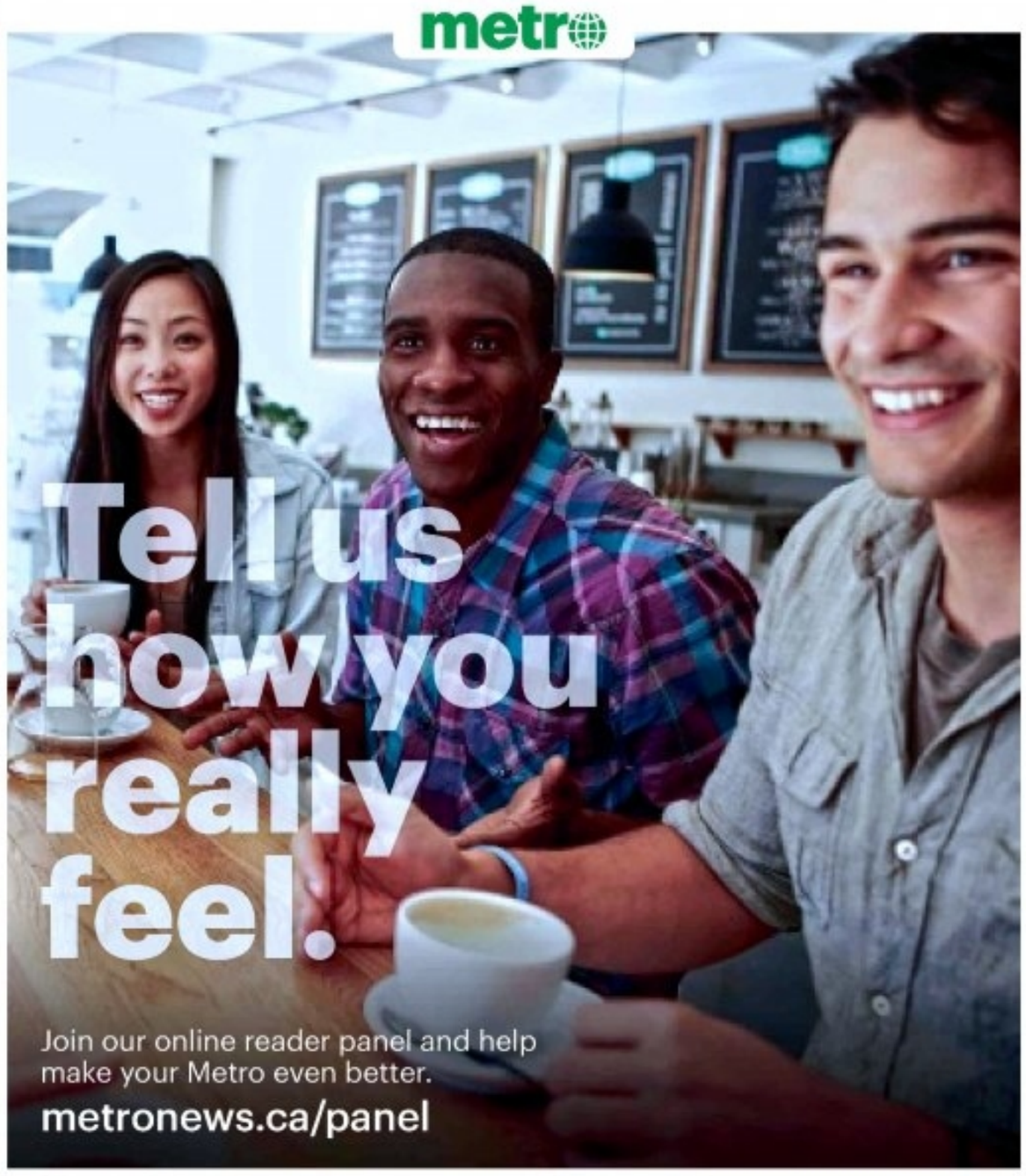
"It's not really far-fetched, it's not science fiction, it's getting closer to real applications," said Hugh Liu, a professor at University of Toronto, Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS).

"How long for commercial drone deliveries? It's hard to say. In a year or two, we'll probably see some sort of delivery exercise, maybe not full-scale commercial usage, but a pilot project being done in Canada."

Under current regulations, unmanned drone deliveries cannot be made in Canada — permits allow air drones only within visual sight lines and in restricted areas — but Transport Canada is exploring changes to address the growing popularity and economic importance of drones and integrate them safely into Canadian airspace, according to spokesperson Natasha Gauthier.

Di Benedetto thinks commercial drone deliveries in Canada may be as close as 2017. He said retailers, municipalities and multinationals are interested in the technology and so are government agencies, including Canada Post.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

ON THE RCMP'S SETTLEMENT

Women and taxpayers are the ones paying for Mountie misdeeds

I had reason to call the RCMP last week, and a woman picked up the phone at the Surrey detachment.

It was Thursday, and I wondered what it was like for her to walk into that office the morning of a historic, landmark settlement over harassment, abuse, rape and discrimination of women within the Mounties' ranks.

What were her colleagues saying? Did she ever experience the kind of treatment that will net at least 1,000 current and former RCMP employees a share of the $100-million settlement? Or does she count herself lucky?

This settlement — announced last Thursday — is also for her. Both symbolically and, one hopes, in terms of real change with the organization, it is for any woman who would want to join the RCMP in the future, and every one of them who's ever joined.

And it raises many other questions: Why did it take so long? The two class-action lawsuits against the RCMP that led to the settlement were first filed in 2011. In 2013, Bob Paulson, the RCMP commissioner, announced a "Gender and Respect" action plan, after which more women continued to join those lawsuits.

TOP MOUNTIE APOLOGIZES RCMP commissioner Bob Paulson holds a news conference, as plaintiffs Janet Merlo, centre, and Linda Davidson look on, in Ottawa last week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paulson became choked up as he announced the settlement. Are other male RCMP officers also emotionally torn by the abuse faced by their fellow officers? What is their role in fighting the "potent minority" that Paulson and two of the complainants, Janet Merlo and Linda Davidson, claim is responsible?

What about the male police officers who committed these crimes? Will they be held accountable? The settlement process will be confidential, even to the RCMP, which suggests nothing will happen to them. And even if they are reprimanded in some way: Will they change?

What of other police forces scattered across the country? What about the three police officers in Toronto currently facing charges for gang raping a fellow officer?

And what of us, the citizens who will ultimately pay for the machismo, the violence, the cruelty, and the sexism and misogyny displayed by men in the RCMP who we pay to keep our country safe?

We might support this settlement (I do with every cell), but that doesn't change the fact that it was first and foremost women and sexual minorities who paid the price — with their careers, mental health and sense of safety.

Secondly, it will be us, Canadian citizens, who pay cash for this suffering.

I'd love to be proved wrong, but just like the Canadian military report into sexual harassment and assault revealed a toxic workplace, but no list of culprits, I expect the same will be done here.

Criminal behaviour won't, in the end, be paid for by the criminals.

metro Your essential daily news
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A word in defence of my outlaw ways

TORY'S TORONTO

Matt Elliott

A confession: when I leave my house today, I am going to break the law.

If I decide to ride my bike, I'll probably make a few "Idaho stops" at low-traffic stop signs, slowing way down and yielding instead of coming to a complete stop with my feet on the ground.

And I might even ride the wrong way up the one-way residential side street near my house. It's the most direct way to get to the closest bike lane.

My law-breaking ways are even more brazen when I'm on foot. As a pedestrian, there are several intersections I regularly pass through that take many minutes to show a walk signal. If the coast is clear, and the crossing is safe, I'm not waiting.

But that's not the worst of it. When it comes to pedestrian countdown timers, I might be the city's number one scofflaw.

Though the highway traffic act, Toronto police and Mayor John Tory say pedestrians aren't supposed to cross when the countdown has started, I never obey this. If there are five or six seconds left, I'm crossing.

I break this rule at least a dozen times a day. And I'm not sorry.

I admit all this not to brag about my cool rebellious ways but instead to point out that our infrastructure and our laws are too often set up to criminalize common sense behaviour.

The reason for this is generally rooted in an old school desire to prioritize cars over active transportation – those travelling on foot or by bike.

So one-way residential streets are designated as such to direct car traffic, with little regard to connectivity with the bike network.

So the legal definition of a complete stop at a stop sign is obviously written with cars in mind, and applies to bikes only as an afterthought.

So in many parts of the city signals are still timed to ensure the free-flow of vehicle traffic, even as frustrated pedestrians pile up and wait forever on street corners.

And so pedestrian countdown timers, once hailed as a technological advancement that would help pedestrians, are now being used by to admonish pedestrians who rightly judge they can cross the roadway within the remaining time displayed.

They say we're slowing down traffic, and causing congestion.

But here's the thing: pedestrians and cyclists are traffic too. It's just that the laws don't want to acknowledge that.

I don't relish being a criminal. I will continue to advocate for change that properly prioritizes road users.

But until that change comes, so long as getting around in the city in a quick, safe and efficient way puts me at odds with the rules, then, well, you can call me an outlaw.

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metro LIFE

Drake earned a record-breaking 13 American Music Awards nominations for his latest album, Views, shattering Michael's Jackson's mark of 11 nominations in a single year from 1984.

Your essential daily news
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Insights from women who run their own show

Grace Bonney is the author of Company of Women: Inspiration and Advice from Over 100 Makers, Artists, and Entrepreneurs. CHRISTOPHER STURMAN

NEW BOOK

Grace Bonney gets inspiration from over 100 women

Grace Bonney started her blog, Design*Sponge, at 23 and it quickly evolved into a business.

The lifestyle blog, which covers art, design, interiors and travel, can teach you how to make DIY wooden planter boxes and pet name tags, but also how to DIY a business, with advice for working from home and overcoming failure. Twelve years later, Bonney, who lives in New York's Hudson Valley, is releasing In the Company of Women: Inspiration and Advice from Over 100 Makers, Artists, and Entrepreneurs, a collection of Q&A interviews with women who also run their own shows, including Neko Case, Roxane Gay, Tavi Gevinson, Christy Turlington, Carrie Brownstein, Mary Lambert and Issa Rae.

In the book, Bonney asks one of two sets of general questions about childhood and lessons learned the hard way. Torstar News Service put some of the same queries to Bonney herself.

What's the best piece of advice you have received?
Let go and really embrace the idea that no matter how experienced you are in your business, the hurdles are always there and they get even more complex — but the reward of getting through them gets more fulfilling.

Is there a certain mistake that led to success, eventually?
Most of my mistakes come in the form of team management. Early on I made the mistake of thinking I had to be friends with everybody. I was so concerned with people feeling comfortable and supported I never asked for what I actually needed. When I ultimately realized that being direct and assertive and telling people what I needed, it created an easy, clear work environment and it's flowed a lot better since I've become more direct.

Is there a tool, object or ritual you couldn't work without?
It sounds boring, but my iPhone. I do everything from my phone. I do all our social media, answer emails, record videos. I could live without my laptop but not my phone. We had to not use that answer for a lot of people. It was like, iPhone, iPhone, iPhone.

What does the world need more of?
More listening and less talking. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE SIDEBAR IS EXCERPTED FROM IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN: INSPIRATION AND ADVICE FROM OVER 100 MAKERS, ARTISTS, AND ENTREPRENEURS, A BOOK OF INTERVIEWS BY DESIGN*SPONGE FOUNDER GRACE BONNEY.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Issa Rae, creator of web series *Awkward Black Girl* and future star of HBO series Insecure

Name a fear or professional challenge that keeps you up at night.
Being labelled as a bad writer.

What quotation or saying inspires and motivates you to be yourself and do what you love?
Our family mantra: "Give to your world the best, and the best will come back to you."

Which of your traits are you most proud of?
My empathy.

Neko Case, musician and member of Canadian band New Pornographers

Which of your traits are you most proud of?
I'm true-blue. A loyal dog.

What does the world need more of? Less of?
More humility, less infighting.

What would you tell yourself ten to twenty years ago that you wish you knew then?
Stop buying dresses; you hate them.

Ping Zhu, New York-based commercial illustrator and artist

What does success mean to you?
Success is contextual and fleeting, so when things are harmonious, even for a moment, I try to savour it.

Name the biggest overall lesson you've learned in running a business.
Self-discipline and organization is a must.

What does the world need more of? Less of?
More teachers. Fewer flip-flops.

Tavi Gevinson, editor-in-chief of the magazine Rookie

Name a fear or professional challenge that keeps you up at night.
Not filling the day as much as I could have.

In moments of self-doubt or adversity, how do you build yourself back up?
Self-care, which for me means taking walks alone, journaling, and doing yoga.

NOW ON SALE!
"A SASSY TAKE ON DISNEY'S PRINCESSES!"
The New York Times

PHOTO: Dahlia Katz

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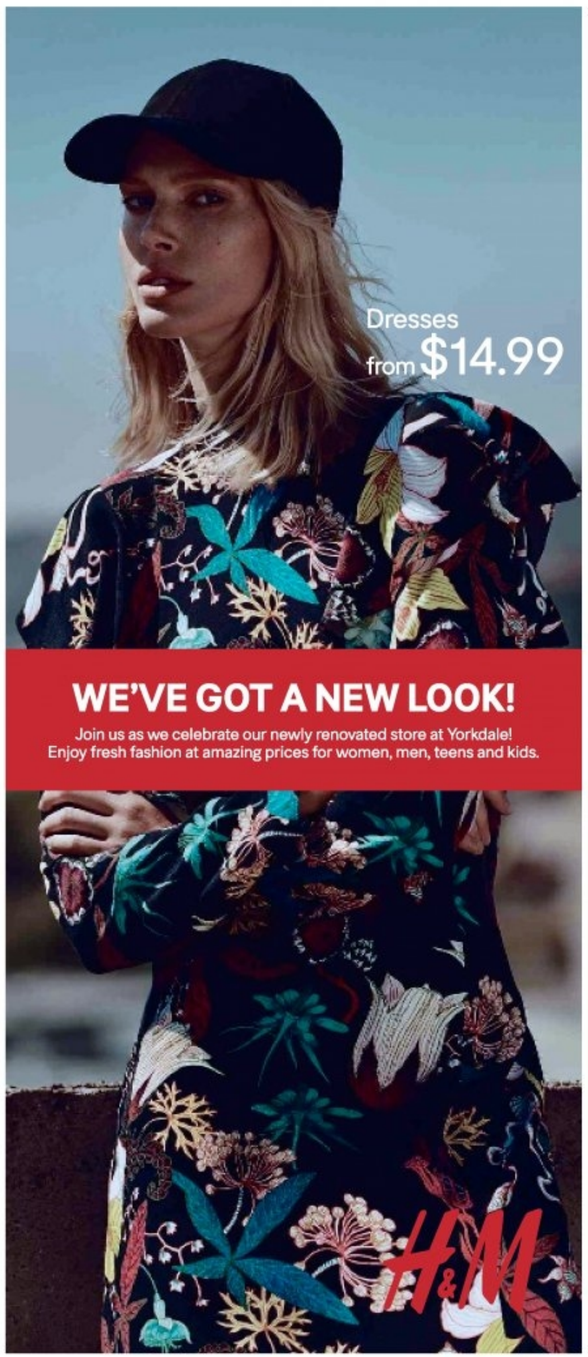
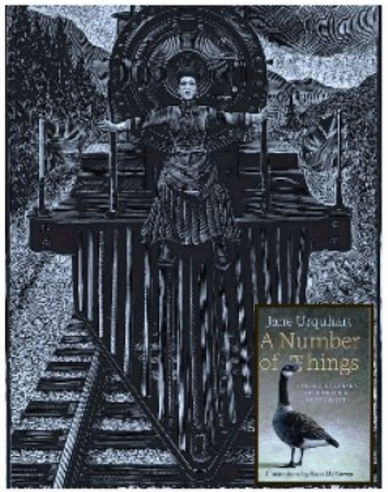


BOOK EXCERPT

A NUMBER OF THINGS, BY JANE URQUHART

The cowcatcher



Lady Susan Agnes Macdonald, second wife of our much-praised and frequently criticized first prime minister, turns out to have been an unusual woman, especially if one considers the times, and the places, that influenced her life.

Daughter of a Jamaican plantation owner, she would have witnessed not only the daily brutality and moral corruption of owning slaves, but also some of Jamaica's most bloody and ultimately successful uprisings. For obvious reasons, her father's fortunes did not fare well in Jamaica after the 1838 emancipation of the slaves, and when he died in 1850, the family moved to Ontario, where Hewitt, one of her two brothers, became secretary to a man called John A. Macdonald, the attorney general of Canada West (as it was named at the time).

Living in Ontario did not prevent Agnes from making frequent trips to the mother country, and thus it was that in 1866 she happened to be in England for the London Conference, during which the British North America Act was hammered out in preparation for Canadian Confederation.

John A., allegedly a great wit, announced that he had become so fond of the notion of unity he felt he should try it out once again himself, and the two were married and even managed a short honeymoon in Oxford while the conference grumbled on around them.

The BNA Act was duly draft and signed, and when the Dominion of Canada was born on July 1, 1867, John A. became Sir John A. and his wife became Lady Macdonald. Years later, in 1886, as first lady to the first prime minister, Agnes would accompany her husband on his only journey to the West Coast — one that would be taken on the almost new transcontinental train, the last spike having been driven into the earth of British Columbia in 1885.

Sir John was in his second incarnation at the time: the Pacific Scandal, in which the construction of the railway was politically encouraged by massive campaign donations from promoters of same, had thrown him out of office for a while in the 1870s. His problems with alcohol had not abated to any noticeable degree, and if there was a bar car, he was likely spending a consider- able amount of time in it.

Travel in previous centuries astonishes, especially if one considers the amount of time spent moving over land or across oceans without showers or sleeping pills. This added to the very real dangers along the route (weather, mechanical failure, accidents, disease), arguably made any travel extreme travel.

In spite of this, Lady Agnes apparently wanted adventures even more thrilling than those already provided, and when the train eventually reached the Rocky Mountains, she announced to a thunderstruck superintendent that she would be travelling on the engine's cowcatcher for the final six hundred miles of the journey to avail herself of a better view.

She was able to persuade her husband to join her for only thirty miles, but from the sounds of her diary, his absence in no way diminished her enjoyment. Perhaps her enthusiasm encouraged her husband to think seriously about preserving such extraordinarily beautiful landscapes, as shortly aft the couple returned from the west, Sir John established Yoho and Glacier national parks, two of our first mountain parks.

Lady Agnes never forgot the mountains. And the mountains would remember her as well. There is a small body of water near the top of Mount St. Piran called Lake Agnes, and Mount Lady Macdonald looms over Canmore.

And her excitement en route is touchingly expressed in By Car and Cowcatcher, her published account of the experience. Reading it, one feels one is sitting right beside her on the biscuit box that the engineer had affixed to the triangular iron platform as a provisional chair.

"There is glory of brightness and beauty everywhere," she enthuses, "and I laugh aloud on the cowcatcher, just because it is all so delightful."

In her new book, **A Number of Things: Stories of Canada Told Through Fifty Objects**, author Jane Urquhart explores 50 unexpected artifacts that explore the history of the nation. On sale today, this is her gift to Canada as we prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

EXCERPT FROM: A NUMBER OF THINGS: STORIES OF CANADA TOLD THROUGH FIFTY OBJECTS BY JANE URQUHART ©2016. ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT MCKOWEN ©2016. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINSPUBLISHERS LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Ashton Kutcher, who stars in **Netflix's The Ranch**, thinks that the less people know about an actor's personal life the more believable they are as characters. AMY SUSSMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kutcher wants to be less famous

INTERVIEW

Wishes he could be an actor minus the fame

Ashton Kutcher wishes he had a rewind button. If he did, he would reset his career and stay under the radar.

"Sometimes as an actor I wish I could start my career over," Kutcher said, "where people don't know anything about me and I'd never do an interview and I'd never do a talk show because I'd never want them to know anything about me."

Kutcher's theory is that the less people know about performers' lives, the more believable they are as characters.

"Most people probably wouldn't recognize Gary Oldman in his everyday life because they have no idea how he walks and how he talks. He's such a chameleon from role to role. I think if you can do this job and be successful at the level of success you want to attain and do it without any of the fame — that would be the ultimate gig."

Kutcher, 38, is married to his That '70s Show co-star Mila Kunis. (The sitcom aired from 1998-2006.) They have a daughter, Wyatt, and Kunis is expecting their second child, a boy, later this year.

On his new Netflix comedy, The Ranch, Kutcher's character, Colt Bennett, has an understanding of celebrity on a small scale. Colt was a high school and college football star who dreamed of going pro. Instead, he returns to his family's ranch after it falls on hard times.

Danny Masterson, who was also on That '70s Show, plays Kutcher's brother on The Ranch. The second half of season one is streaming on Netflix.

Kutcher talked about reuniting with Masterson and his passion for investing.

There must be a lot of familiarity and comfort working with Masterson, since you co-starred on That '70s Show for eight seasons.

I know what he's gonna do before he's gonna do it, he knows what I'm gonna do, I know exactly how to set him up for a punchline, he knows how to set me up.

We know how to play off each other and respect each other in the workplace. We also have this brutal honesty that we have with each other that you can't have with someone new that you're working with because I can tell him exactly what I think about what he's gonna do, or what he is doing and he doesn't get offended, and he can do the same with me.

What's it like reuniting when you're both married and have children?

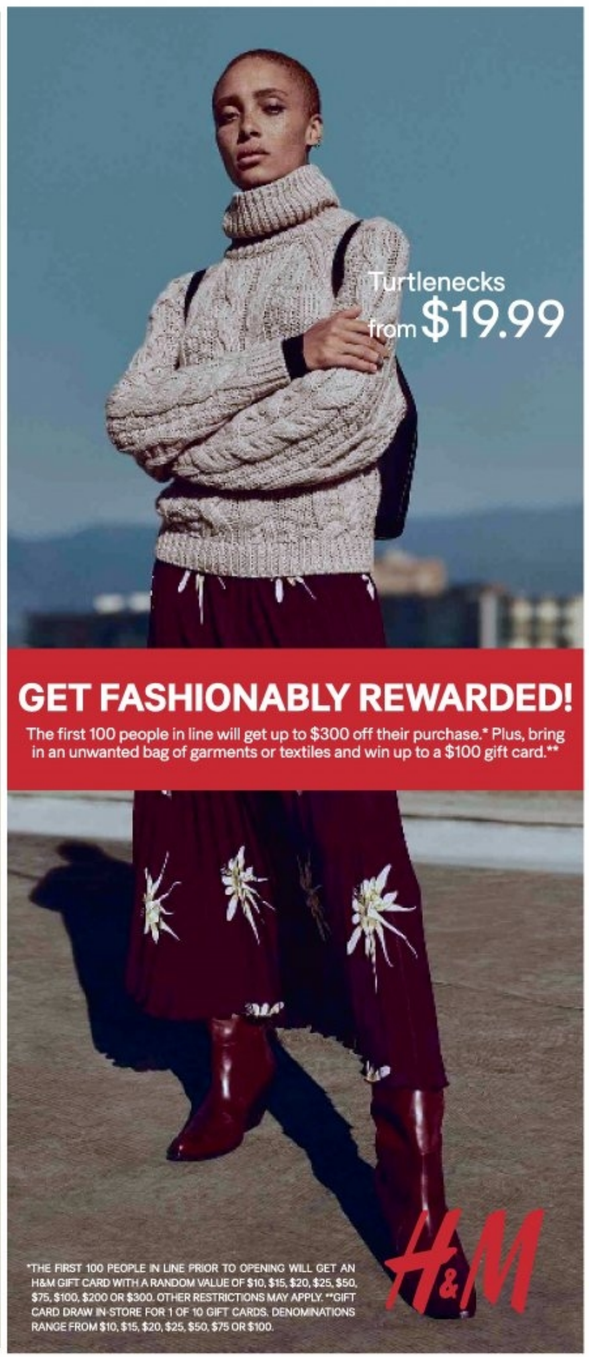
We're both producers on The Ranch, and so as opposed to on That '70s Show when we were just kind of showing up for the gig and, you know, now we're in charge. ... When we were doing that show we were in our twenties and out partying every night and, you know, showing up hung over, whatever we were doing. Just trying to get to work. Now, instead of after the show having a party, our kids get together and run around the hallway together. (Laughs.)

What can we expect from these new episodes of "The Ranch"?

After you establish the characters on a show, that's when these shows start to hit their power alley, which is why I'm so excited. Now we get to be who we are.

You also are known for your investments in companies like Uber and Airbnb. Where does that interest in investments come from? Are you always learning about new companies?

I'm learning every day. I would say any investor that doesn't do that isn't an investor. You're constantly doing a deep dive into something you never would have thought about. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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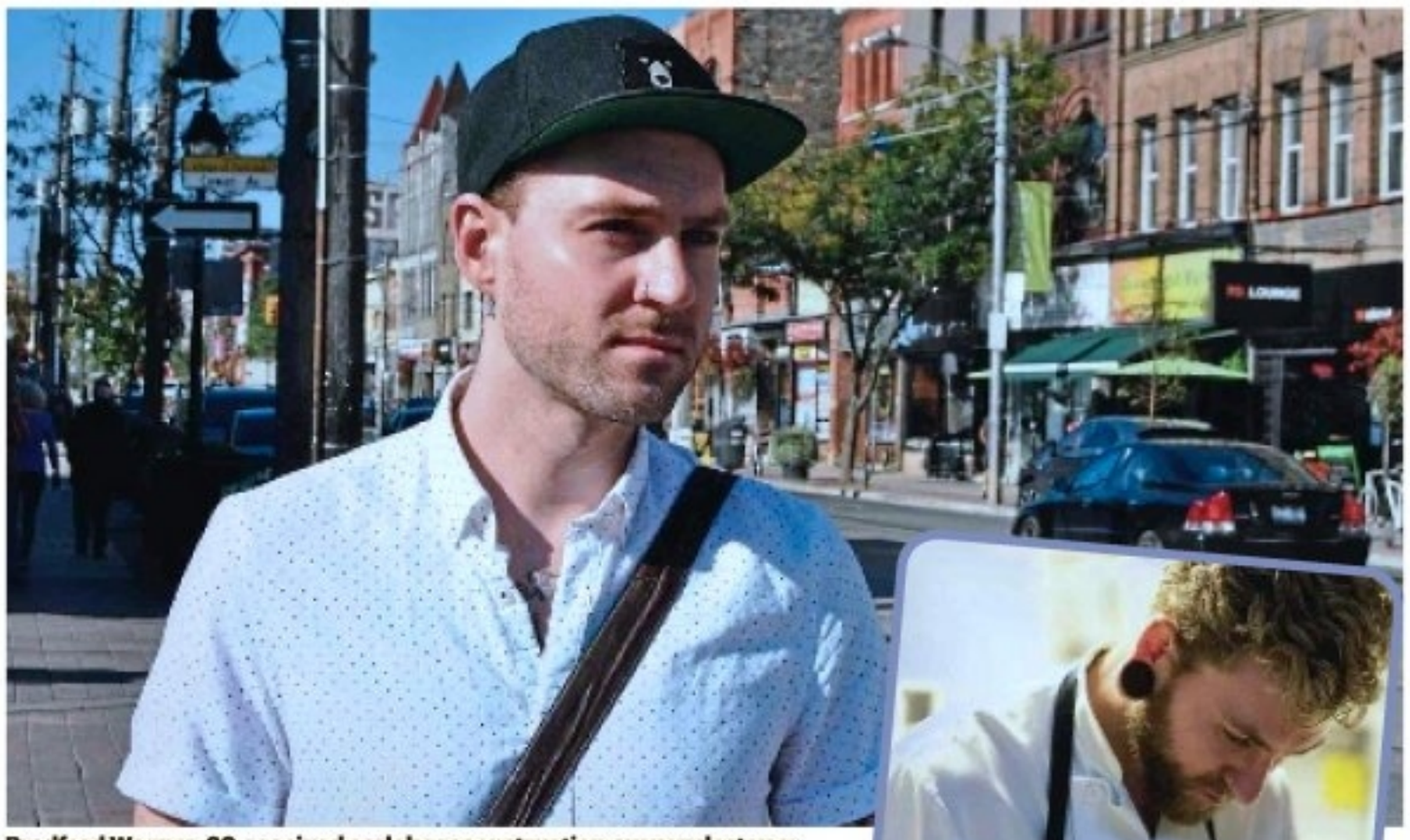

Bradford Wagner, 29, received earlobe reconstruction surgery last year after first expanding his lobes at 18. ABOVE PHOTO BY PERRY KING, PHOTO ON LEFT PROVIDED BY BRADFORD WAGNER

TREND

Earlobe reconstruction has spiked in popularity

Perry King
For Metro Canada

Bradford Wagner was a huge metalhead in his teens, and he had the one-and-a-half inch earlobes to show for it. Punched out and expanded to fit spacers when he was 18, his lobes were part of Wagner's immersion into the underground music scene.

"A lot of my peers then had them, and I liked the look of them and, to be frank, I wanted to fit in." But as he neared the end of his 20s, fading from punk and working as a sous chef in Toronto's financial district, Wagner began re-evaluating those dangling lobes.

"It was a new phase in my life and I needed a change," said Wagner, now 29.

Wagner is not alone — many young people who have stretched their lobes for various reasons are considering repairing them. Dr. Kristina Zachary, a Calgary-based plastic surgeon who specializes in head and neck procedures, has repaired about 50 pairs this year alone — about four procedures a month on average. Though procedures have been done in the past to reset torn and stretched ears, the surgery has become a "generational phenomenon," she says.

"They have grown tired of the stretched earlobes, or they're entering into a field of work where it's a little more conservative, and they don't want to have a non-conservative appearance," said Dr. Zakhary, who has been practising for 12 years.

"Typically they're young; there's an even proportion of males to females," she added. "Usually, they're between age of 18 to, I would say, 40, and they're usually people who have had their earlobes stretched with those circular earrings and have changed their minds about (them) because of different factors."

When Wagner was committed to repairing his ears, he did his research and eventually worked with Dr. Marc DuPere at the Visage Clinic in Toronto to have it done.

Dr. DuPere, who performs the surgery 50 to 70 times a year, has seen similar increasing interest in the procedure. "Many did it when (they were) younger and now see some obstruction to a better job in a highly competitive market, along with the 'expected' look that someone should have in a more conservative professional environment," wrote Dr. DuPere in an e-mail.

Wagner wasn't worried about his appearance at all, but felt the move was necessary for his personal growth.

"I consider myself a new person, almost," he said.

NEED TO KNOW

Lending their ears

Earlobe reconstruction is seen as non-invasive and relatively quick compared to other cosmetic procedures — about half an hour per ear. The surgery is done under local anesthesia and the lobes are closed with sutures and stitches are put in place. There are minor complications, including swelling and pain after the anesthesia subsides — patients are given a few Advil or Tylenol at most. Most patients return to school/work the next day. All the ears look good as new after the scarring has subsided.

30
Minutes of work per ear, on average.

7-10
The number of days the stitches are in.

6-8
Number of weeks to go without earrings

PERRY KING/FOR METRO CANADA

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

JT concert begins with group prayer

THE SHOW: Justin Timberlake and the Tennessee Kids
THE MOMENT: Communion

Justin Timberlake CONTRIBUTED

On an elaborate stage in Las Vegas, Justin Timberlake and a large pop/jazz orchestra perform the final concert of their two-year tour. Twenty cameras capture the action from every angle. The budget — musicians, dancers, hydraulics, lasers — is unimaginable.

At one point, a camera looks out from the back of the stage, over the keys of the piano. Timberlake stands at the front of the stage, two levels down, far away, bathed in light. His back is to the piano, but that doesn't matter, because the keyboardist intently watches his every physical cue. Timberlake doesn't have to look at him. He knows he'll be obeyed.

Like many concerts, this one begins with a group prayer. I've puzzled over why so many music superstars, who lead pretty racy lives, consult with a higher power before stepping on stage. But after watching this concert doc from the great Jonathan Demme, I may have figured it out: God is the only one who's big enough to understand them.

Is Timberlake the preacher or the deity himself? Several times, his head fills the video screen behind him, like the Great and Powerful Oz. The earpieces are marked "JT." The guitar picks, too.

Either way, the audience members are true believers. He lifts a finger; they cheer. He puts a hand to his ear; they chant his lyrics. They are gathered here to participate in the communal joy of bringing sexy back.

And when Timberlake soars across the arena on a Plexiglas stage, crooning like an angel? It's ecstasy.

Would you pay for a date planner?

TREND

Kate McNamara has made a business out of fun itineraries

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

Ottawa-based Kate McNamara has been planning dates for friends and family for years.

And with so many people in her life having recently gotten married, she often dishes out the dates as wedding presents. For one couple, McNamara started the day off with instructions (and supplies) to make crafts at home, followed by lunch over a board game at a new restaurant, then on to antiquing before finishing off the day with a homemade Italian dinner. For another, she sent them skating in a park, followed by a couple's pedicure, capped off with dinner at a fancy restaurant.

She's turned her knowledge of the city and all that it has to offer into a growing business, A Date by Kate. She chooses the activities and restaurants based on daters' budgets and surprises them with a secret agenda just before their big night out. She tailors the dates based on their personalities, and encourages them to try new things, like couples' pedicures or sending a shy pair to a sex shop.

Over the last three years, McNamara has planned over 75 dates as a hobby.

But at this year's Women's Show in Ottawa on Oct. 22, the 26-year-old event planner is growing her business. Her plan is to act like a dating concierge: she'll plan mystery dates for clients based on their preferences and budget. It could be anything, from learning to make a cheesecake at a local bakery to a behind-the-scenes tour of a brew house.

She'll coordinate restaurant reservations, day-of setup (for activities like picnics in the park) and even book overnight accommodations. Her clients won't know what she's planning until they receive their instructions ahead of their dates. (She's also planning more "mass" options, like a bucket of dating ideas that aren't customized, complete with discounts and coupons, which clients can do at their own pace.)

It's not cheap: her concierge services start in the low $200s, plus the cost of the date, but she says these personalized custom dates are good gift ideas for newlyweds and recent parents, or even those just looking for a bit more adventure.

The idea, she says, is people are busy and often don't have time to plan extravagant nights on the town, but many millennials are looking for unique experiences. She's catering to that niche.

Hers is not the only business that's popped up in recent months to cater to people looking for a bit of mystery mixed with adventure: earlier this year, U.S. travel company Pack Up + Go launched, sending people on a surprise trip. People enter their budget and how far they wanted to travel (in the city, by car, by plane), and the San Francisco-based company handles the rest. Clients are told generally what to pack (beachwear, hiking shoes, etc.) but the destination is kept a secret until departure.

Millennials are increasingly hunting for these types of unique and unusual experiences, says Carol Wong-Li, a senior analyst at research firm Mintel.

In a recent survey, the young adult cohort was the only one to list entertainment as a priority for how to spend discretionary funds, she says.

And it's not surprising: given most of millennials' lives are spent on social media, there's an inherent desire for Gen Y to look for these cool and unique experiences as a means of social currency, she adds.

Shannon Simmons, a financial planner and founder of New School of Finances who deals largely with millennial clients, says while on the surface paying someone else to plan dates or vacations might seem frivolous, for millennials it's par for the course.

Economically, with lower and stagnated wages and a loss of job security, millennials feel they're worse off than their older counterparts, she says.

"I think we got handed a little bit of a crappy deal with regards to the job market," she says.

"So if we have some discretionary money, I think we want to spend in places that make us feel good and are fun.

"There's nothing wrong with that."

$ EXTRA FUNDS

Priorities
According to Carol Wong-Li, a senior analyst at research firm Mintel, millennials are on the hunt for unique experiences. And in a recent survey, millennials were the only age cohort to list entertainment as a priority for how to spend discretionary funds.

Ottawa-based Kate McNamara plans mystery dates for her clients based on preferences and budget. COURTESY EMILY BEEKMANS

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

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LIVE COVERAGE BEGINS AT 6PM ON CBC

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LEARNING CURVE

Seeking out a study group

ISTOCK

Flipping through the hundredth page of your history textbook, illuminated by the reading light in your lonely dorm room, your eye is caught by a scene across campus.

A window to the library showcases a study scene with multiple members, rallying together to retain classroom information. You begin to wonder if a study group might help to enhance your academic performance and if so, how will you begin to create your crew?

"When studying alone it's easy to become familiar with material because you've seen it before and know what to expect," says Jennifer Meister, academic skills program coordinator at McMaster University. "But being familiar with material doesn't necessarily mean you understand it."

"When you're studying with a group," continues Meister, "the material brought to the table will often be unexpected and presented in new ways." She explains that this dynamic ensures that a student will be tested on how much they understand the material rather than whether they are simply able to identify it.

"Studies also show that one of the best ways to learn is to teach someone else. Study groups are a great place to do that."

Roxanne Ross, manager of the University of Calgary's student success center, encourages students to begin seeking out their student squad within learning portals created in the classroom. "Post an invitation to other students via your course's learning management system," says Ross, who ensures that online forums are made available in the majority of today's post-secondary classes.

"Activities like collectively anticipating exam questions in a group can also be incredibly helpful," she adds. "This increases the likelihood that students will focus on the right study material."

Ross warns, however, to take care in the choosing of those you will cram with.

"Studying with friends can definitely pose challenges for staying on task," says Ross. "However, there are ways to ensure that work gets done and the interactions stay focused. We encourage students to assign a leader in the group for each session who will take on the responsibility of selecting review questions and keep everyone on task."

Jennifer Meister adds that the amount of academics in your newfound alliance must be taken into account. "Of course you'll want to work with people who go to class, finish their work, and want to do well," says Meister. "And remember that a good study group is usually between three to five members; more than that is just a party."

CONTRIBUTED

Become a valued member in a medical office

If you're looking for a satisfying job in a medical setting, consider becoming a medical office administrator.

The job of a medical office administrator can take many forms, depending on your interests. You could be a medical office receptionist, medical file clerk, ward clerk, medical transcriptionist

Whatever your title, the position is perfect for those who have interests in both organizational skills and business skills, as well as an interest in basic medical knowledge.

With these skills, you can become a valued and well-paid member of a medical office team. It's a stimulating, diverse work environment, and your work can take place in one of several settings.

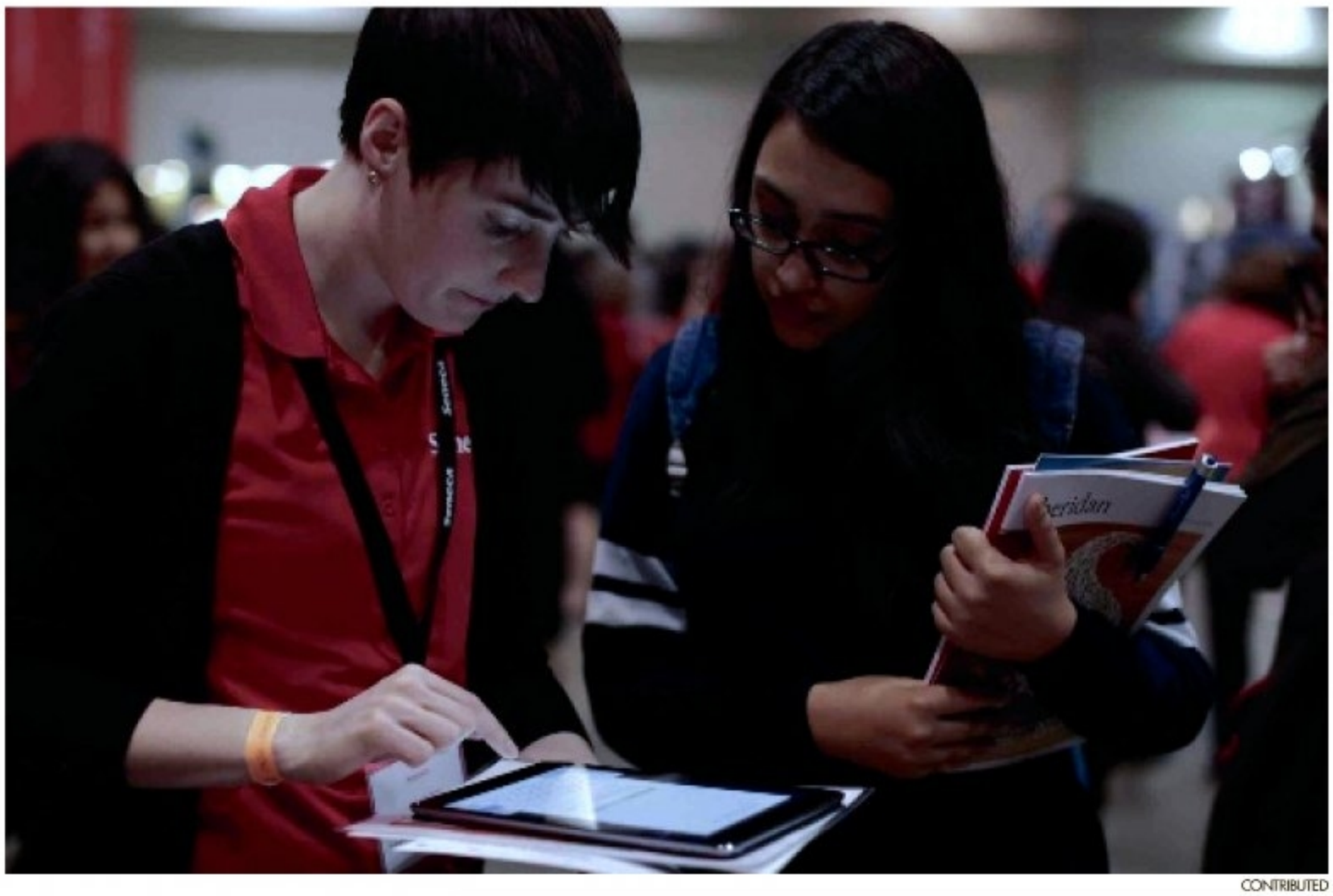
Medical clinics, specialists' offices, insurances companies, acute care wards and other workplaces are in need of medical office administrators.

To acquire the particular skills you need to do the job, all you need to do is take a reputable educational program. Medical transcription, medical billing, managing electronic health care records and day-to-day use of Microsoft Office programs including Word and Excel are some of the essential skills you'll need.

If you think this career might be for you, consider taking the Medical Office Administrator diploma program at CDI College. The program will help you launch into an exciting and rewarding new career as a medical office administrator.

For more information, visit CDI College Business Technology Healthcare online at study.cdicollege.ca, or call 1-800-360-7186.

Now's the time to research college options



CONTRIBUTED

Fall isn't just back to school season, it's also the time for Grade 12 students to begin to research their post-secondary options, says the manager of liaison and recruitment at George Brown College.

"The application service for Ontario colleges (ontariocollege.ca) opens in the fall but applications really spike after Christmas and no colleges release offers until Feb. 1, so now is really the research phase," says Dave Scott.

Research, warns Scott, can't be done in a day and before students even start clicking around college websites, they should first ask themselves: "Where do I see myself in the working world?" Once an area of interest is determined, the most effective research for the right school and program, says Scott, will include a three-prong approach using the Internet, guidance counsellors and visits to the schools that interest students most.

"School websites are still the prime place to get information about schools, programs and the student life experience," he says. "Students should also follow schools on social media sites because this is an extension of the student experience and will give them an idea of what happens at the school throughout the year. On these sites, schools respond quickly to any questions students may have."

One of the more under utilized resources in post-secondary research, says Scott, are guidance counsellors, as students may not think to drop by their offices. However, he says, guidance counsellors are equipped to answer questions, help students to make choices and offer advice that can help to lead students to the most important part of their research.

"It's all theoretical until you get on campus to see what the school atmosphere and culture is like" he says. "There are a few opportunities to do this. First, campus tours offer a broad but not deep experience and focus on showcasing the physical space. And open houses or information sessions include more in-depth information from faculty and current students as well as the opportunity to ask questions."

Ontario College Information Fair

- *The Ontario College Information Fair, the largest event of its kind in the province, takes place at the Enercare Centre, Hall B, Exhibition Place (100 Princes' Blvd.) on Oct. 17 from 5-9 p.m., and Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*
- *Along with information booths, host GTA colleges, including George Brown College, Centennial College, Humber College, The Michener Institute, Seneca College and Sheridan College, will make presentations.*
- *Admission is free. For more information, visit ocif.ca.*

Post-secondary education reaching even more students

CONTRIBUTED

A unique combination of factors is shifting today's post-secondary landscape, which, says one expert, is resulting in college education steadily reaching an increasingly wide range of students.

"University graduates enrolling in colleges, the work that's been done with eCampusOntario to provide greater access to online programs, and innovative approaches such as the recently announced agreement between Colleges Ontario and McDonald's Canada to help qualified managers enter two-year business programs at colleges are all playing a role in college education reaching a larger number of people," says Rob Savage, senior director of communications at Colleges Ontario, the advocacy organization for the province's 24 publicly funded colleges.

Savage says the number of university graduates enrolling in college programs has increased by 50 percent in the last five years, with many opting for graduate certificates in areas such as human resources management, public relations, behavioural sciences, event management, critical care nursing and marketing management. These university grads, he says, are among the growing number of people interested in career-focused programs.

"These students tend to complete a general program at university level and then look for the problem solving abilities, and technical and professional skills needed for certain careers, which are offered at college level," he says.

Along with those seeking more specialized training, colleges are seeing a demand in online delivery of courses and programs. eCampusOntario, which launched in 2015 as a portal for learners to find online and mostly online courses through browsing, searching by keyword, or filtering by institution and delivery format, has helped address that demand, says Savage.

"Online learning creates the opportunity for people who have certain challenges or responsibilities that prevent them from getting to campus or those in the workforce who wants to continue to build on their education do so by pursuing more programs and courses," he says. "It also expands program reach into rural communities, where someone interested in a certain program may not traditionally have access to it."

In a first-of-its-kind agreement, Colleges Ontario and McDonald's Canada are also making it easier for those employed by the fast food giant to obtain a college education. The partnership allows employees training to become managers receive the first year of course credits towards a college business diploma at any of the province's public colleges. Initial estimates see the agreement resulting in tuition cost savings of up to $4,500.

"Innovative approach like this one are something we will continue to look into," says Savage.

2016 ONTARIO COLLEGE INFORMATION FAIR

Monday, October 17: 5pm - 9pm
Tuesday, October 18: 10am - 3pm

Enercare Centre

100 Princes' Blvd | Hall-B Exhibition Place | Toronto

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WHEN A PICTURE IS WORTH AN EXCITING CAREER

While a picture is worth a thousand words to most, for students of Sheridan College's Honours Bachelor of Photography program it is worth much more — including the opportunity to launch a career in the dynamic world of photography.

"Right from week one, they are out there shooting," says James Irwin, who serves as the program's acting coordinator. "And not only do they end up with a varied portfolio but they also learn essential business skills like negotiating contracts and releases, pricing and quoting services, and branding and marketing services."

Established in 1976 as a two-year diploma program, in 2011 the program became a four-year offering to prepare students for the changing landscape of the photography industry. It is the only business-focused professional photography degree program in Canada and in addition to its strong mix of theory and applied photography, it also gives students access says to industry, says Irwin.

Not only do students interact with guest speakers and attend field trips to places such as commercial studios, but they also complete a 14-week internship between the program's third and fourth years.

"Students should be prepared to work and be challenged because they will be working collaboratively in a very creative environment," he says. "And it is the internship component that really defines our program. We have strong relationships with hundreds of photographers, and for students the internship can be eye opening because they see things they may not have been aware of and have the opportunity to network."

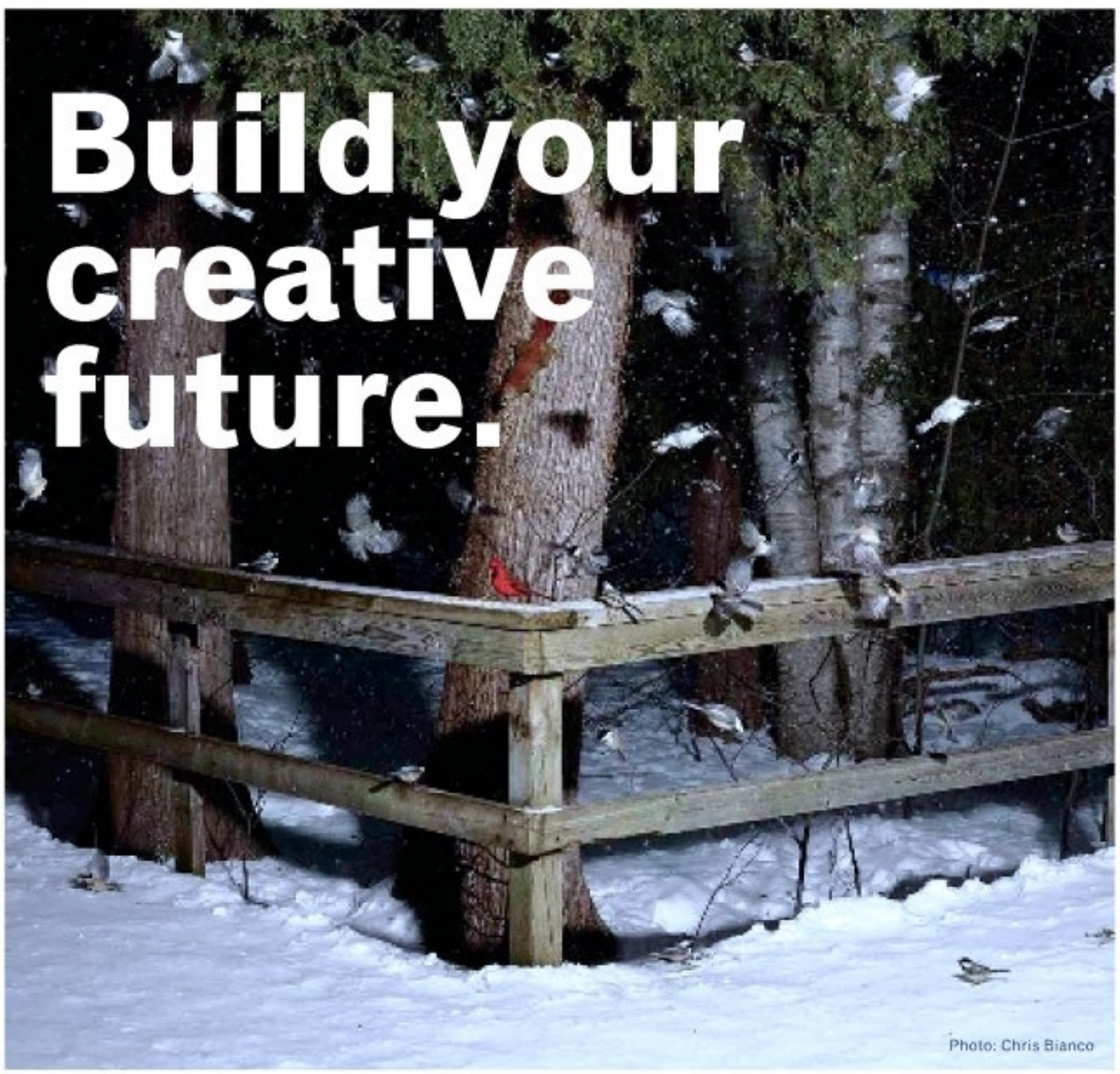
Humber, to ensure their success in the program, provides students with access to state-of-the-art photography equipment and facilities that include the latest industry-standard cameras (professional DSLR, medium- and large-format digital cameras), advanced studio and location lighting, colour-managed computer labs and software such as Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, Premiere Pro and Capture One.

"Technology wise, we are the best equipped in Canada," says Irwin. "Students receive a DSLR camera kit to use from September until the end of April for each of the first two years and in the final two years they get to pick from high-end video, DSLR, medium- and large-format cameras to produce their projects."

Graduates, says Irwin, typically begin their photography careers as assistants or freelance photographers, and then work their way into full-time employment or operate their own studios.

"The industry has changed," he acknowledges. "One thing you have to know is there is the traditional jobs but there is a lot more entrepreneurial opportunities. The entrepreneurially minded graduates do really well. You have to be flexible."

CONTRIBUTED



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Curriculum is 'challenging, exciting and really quite powerful'

Thirty-five-years ago, Pauline Camuti-Cull began teaching in Centennial College's early childhood education (ECE) program.

Since then, she has watched the offering continuously change, develop and grow to reflect advancements in the field. It is this dedication, she says, to ensuring students are equipped with the most up-to-date theory and best practices that has garnered the program and its graduates a respected reputation in the community.

"I'm very proud of our curriculum and how committed we are to ensuring what we are doing is relevant," says Camuti-Cull, who, in addition to teaching, also serves as the program coordinator. "Our curriculum is challenging, exciting and really quite powerful. Students leave here absolutely more than well prepared to work or continue their education at university level. Our industry and university partners respect that."

CONTRIBUTED

Offered at both the school's Progress and Ashtonbee campuses, with a special winter intake also available at Progress, the program takes an experiential approach, with students enjoying three field placements in the community and a range of in-class projects.

It is, however, Centennial's two early childhood education centres, used as lab schools, that provide some of the most important learning opportunities, says Camuti-Cull.

"We are really lucky to have those lab schools and they are integral to everything we do in our program," she says. "For example, if we are talking about a certain way of planning an experience, the ECE educators at the lab schools are doing it. So our students can actually go and observe what we just talked about and have a more meaningful experience in terms of understanding high quality child care."

In addition to ensuring the curriculum remains relevant — with the most recent changes addressing the ECE educator's role in the shift to full-day learning — Centennial's offering is also addressing students' changing needs.

Introduced recently was a blended delivery component with elements of certain courses facilitated online.

"The reception has been positive and what helps is faculty ensures we link the content to classroom discussions so students have context and an opportunity to talk about it," says Camuti-Cull. "Our goal is always to keep students engaged."

HANDS-ON APPROACH TO GREEN ECONOMY STUDIES

Winter is coming, whether we like it or not. And while our need to keep warm drives us indoors and causes us to blast the heat, it also results in soaring energy bills. But there are easy ways to keep the warmth in, cold out and use less energy, says one expert.

"In older homes, caulking around windows and weather-stripping around door frames helps to target common heat loss locations. You should also have your furnace or boiler tuned up before winter to make sure it's making the best use of its fuel.

If your furnace or boiler is more than 10 years old, consider an upgrade to a more energy efficient one.

"And a final tip to is switching to LED bulbs, which last much longer and use much less energy," advises Kerry Johnston, program manager for Humber College's sustainable energy and building technology offering.

It is this type of knowledge as well as the skills needed for a career in the growing green economy that students gain through the three-year offering.

With its primarily hands-on approach to covering areas such as energy conservation, efficiency and management; green and sustainable buildings, renewable energy technologies and sustainable community development, the program's curriculum proves to be unique.

"There really aren't programs that are similar to ours and what we are seeing is that people in the industry are really starting to recognize the value our grads bring because of the breadth of knowledge they gain," says Johnston. "Basically right now any grad who wants a job, there is one out there. Older buildings are being retrofitted and with three million more people expected in the Greater Toronto Area over the next 25 years, there is lots of work."

Most opportunities for grads, says Johnston, are found in work on commercial and institutional buildings as sustainable energy project managers, energy auditors, technical support specialists, government energy policy analysts, sustainable project supervisors and business operators.

"This program is really for anyone interested in energy and the environment who wants a mix of theory and hands-on and knows that it's OK if they want to save the world."

CONTRIBUTED

metro SPORTS

"It's something I'm not going to forget": Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor whose error let the Blue Jays score the series-clinching run

Jays earn welcome break

MLB PLAYOFFS

Suddenly hot Toronto team begins ALCS on Friday

Blue Jays players converge on Josh Donaldson after he scored the winning run in the 10th inning of Game 3 of their ALDS against the Rangers on Sunday night at Rogers Centre. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

September was a month the Toronto Blue Jays would like to forget.

If they keep up their current level of play, October could very well be a month they remember.

The Blue Jays defeated Texas 7-6 on Sunday night to eliminate the Rangers from the post-season. The victory gave Toronto a welcome break before the start of the American League Championship Series on Friday.

After going just 11-16 last month, Toronto is a perfect 6-0 in October after a pair of critical regular-season wins in Boston, a wild-card victory over Baltimore and a three-game sweep of Texas.

"We turned the page on September," said Blue Jays manager John Gibbons. "It wasn't necessarily a good month for us but now we're in October. So that's sometimes the way the game works too — month to month."

Toronto's offence is a big reason why the team has moved on to baseball's final four.

The Blue Jays have outscored (27-12) and out-homered (10-3) the opposition in the playoffs. Edwin Encarnacion has led the way with three homers in four post-season games.

In the other AL Division Series, Cleveland completed a sweep of its own by beating Boston 4-3 on Monday night. The Indians will host the Jays for the first two games of the ALCS.

"What happened in September doesn't matter," said Blue Jays slugger Jose Bautista. "We made it to the playoffs. We made it to the League Championship Series and that's the only thing that matters. We're doing our job."

Second baseman Devon Travis is nursing a bone bruise in his right knee and will welcome a few days off. Toronto management believes Travis is close to being able to play and that he had his "best day" on Monday.

"Devon, every day is better," Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said in a conference call. "We are more optimistic today at 6 p.m. than we were at 5 p.m. It's not definite that he'll be playable but we feel very good about it."

The Toronto bullpen, which has been worked hard in recent weeks, could also use the break.

> **We are who we are. We have to slug it out. That's really our identity.**
> Manager John Gibbons

"Some people like to say a couple of days off might throw our timing off, I really don't believe in that," said Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin. "At this point in the year a couple days off can do wonders. So for our bullpen, our pitching, get everybody's arms fresh. And the same thing for guys who are banged up.

"A couple of days can go a long way in this game it seems like."

Two key Toronto pitchers remain out. Left-hander Francisco Liriano suffered a mild concussion last Friday and can return to the roster once he goes through Major League Baseball's seven-day concussion protocol.

There is no timeline for the potential return of right-handed reliever Joaquin Benoit, who is making progress as he recovers from a torn calf muscle.

"Now you get a few days off to catch your breath a little bit, which is really, really big for our group I think," Gibbons said. "But you know, we are who we are. We have to slug it out. That's really our identity."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tribe bid Big Papi, Red Sox farewell

Cleveland closer Cody Allen hung on in the last two innings, and the Indians beat the Boston Red Sox 4-3 Monday to complete a three-game sweep of their AL Division Series.

Red Sox slugger David Ortiz walked in the final plate appearance of his major-league career but could only watch from the dugout when Travis Shaw hit a game-ending flyout with a pair of runners on.

Coco Crisp hit a two-run homer, rookie Tyler Naquin delivered a two-run single and Josh Tomlin pitched five strong innings for Cleveland, which opens the AL Championship Series against Toronto at home on Friday.

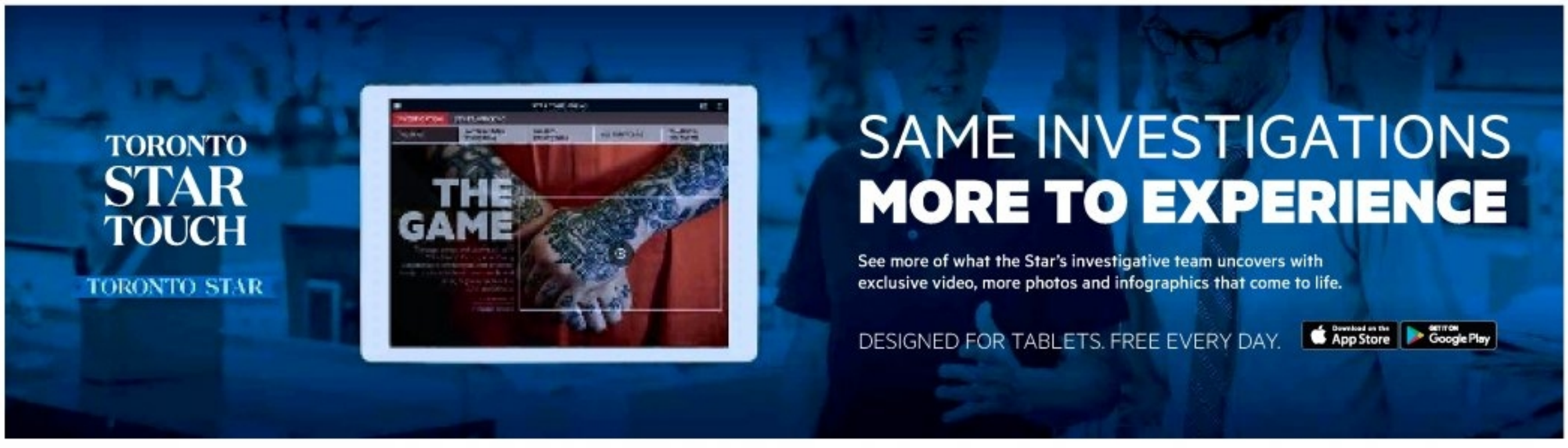
Cleveland went 4-3 this year against the wild-card Blue Jays.

The Indians had not won a playoff series in nine years, when they beat the New York Yankees and then wasted a 3-1 lead over the Red Sox in the ALCS. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NLDS

Nats muscle up on Dodgers

Anthony Rendon and Jayson Werth homered, and the Washington Nationals moved to within one victory of winning a post-season series for the first time, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-3 Monday for a 2-1 lead in their series.



NEW natural ingredient produces 34% more hair in 8 months!

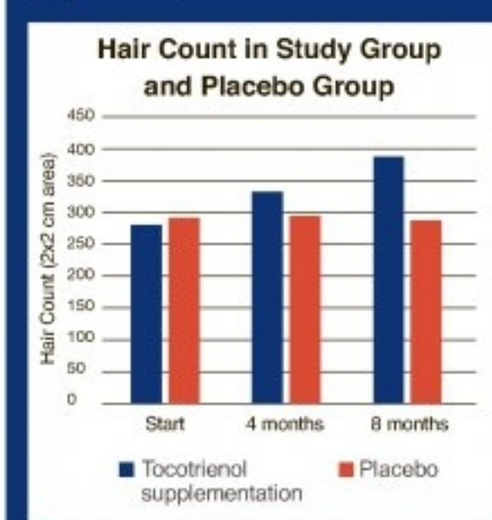
It is known that supplements can increase hair health and volume to some degree, but to find a supplement that can increase hair growth strongly is rare. Still, this is what scientist are finding when studying palm oil extracts.

A recent study was done at the University of Malaysia with 38 people suffering from hair loss (alopecia)*. They were told to take a palm oil extract containing a special ratio of "super-antioxidants" called tocotrienols, known to lower oxidation in the scalp and thus allow for better – and new - hair growth. The results were surprisingly good!

In Canada, this complex of tocotrienols is now available in the Health Canada licensed product called Hair Gro™ from New Nordic. Hair Gro is available now at participating pharmacies and health food stores. For more information or to purchase directly, please visit our website or call: 1-877-696-6734.

STUDY RESULT:

Researchers studied an area of the scalp equal to 2x2 cm and counted the hairs at the beginning of the study, at 4 months and at 8 months. At the end of the study, the participants on the tocotrienol supplement had gained 34.5% more hair or an increase in average hair count from 285 to 383 hairs. Most of the group showed increases of 10-25%, but 40% of the group had more than 50% increase in hair growth. And only one person did not have any results.



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*Tropical Life Sciences Research 2010 "Effects of Tocotrienol Supplementation on Hair Growth in Human Volunteers" Beoy, Woei et Hay, University Sains Malaysia. To make sure this product is right for you, always read the label and follow the instructions.

Leafs load up on rookies

NHL

Buds begin 100th season Wednesday night in Ottawa

Mitch Marner has been tabbed for the Leafs' top line. VAUGHN RIDLEY/GETTY IMAGES

While Auston Matthews and William Nylander worked together late after practice ended, Mitch Marner had the biggest post-practice scrum, talking about being part of a youthful core of Maple Leafs who will mature together.

"This could be a group together for a long time," said Marner. "I think it's just the beginning of something good."

It will be a rookie-loaded lineup that carries the hopes and dreams of Leafs fans when the team's 100th season launches on Wednesday night in Ottawa.

"It's encouraging to the whole group to have a lot of young guys coming up, a lot of skill throughout the whole team," said Matthews. "It's a really exciting time to be a Toronto Maple Leaf."

The big question? Are they a playoff team? General manager Lou Lamoriello dodged the question.

"I never think in those terms," said Lamoriello. "After 20 or 30 games you find out what your team is, and when you get to 40 or 50 you really know what direction you're heading that season. At this point, what we're concerned about is getting better every day."

So there could still be pain — and the Leafs have enough veterans on expiring contracts to peddle at the trade deadline — but Lamoriello says this team is at least better than last year's last-place club.

"Are we a better team? Yes. Do we have more potential? I hate that word (but) we have the ability to get better every day. Those are the positives," he said.

It was by design that the Leafs opened roster spots for rookies. Connor Brown is on the fourth line. Nikita Zaitsev will be a regular on the blue line. Zach Hyman is on the left wing with Matthews and Nylander, on a line destined to be called the Kid Line.

"It's exciting to have young players with the ability these players have," added Lamoriello. "It's up to them to grab this opportunity, which might never come again."

The way head coach Mike Babcock has set out his lines, Marner stands to benefit the most on the top line with Tyler Bozak and James van Riemsdyk.

"You like to play him with guys with hockey sense," said Babcock. "(Marner) generates a lot. I think he's been really good. He's good defensively, way better than I expected. He's got to learn to work hard in practice. He'll do that." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **It's up to them to grab this opportunity, which might never come again.** GM Lou Lamoriello

Gaudreau scores six-year extension

Forward Johnny Gaudreau has a new contract in time to start the NHL regular season.

The Calgary Flames and Gaudreau agreed to a six-year contract extension on Monday worth $40.5 million US — an annual average of $6.75 million.

The 23-year-old Gaudreau had been a restricted free agent since his entry-level contract expired back on July 1.

"I have decided to (re-sign) with the Calgary Flames. As I have always said, I just want to play hockey. I want to be there for my teammates and for the fans of Calgary," Gaudreau posted on his verified Twitter account. "I want to thank my family and my agent for all their support during this process. I couldn't have done it without them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

78

Gaudreau tallied 78 points last season.

IN BRIEF

Isles' Parenteau, Jets' Pavelec placed on waivers

Goaltender Ondrej Pavelec and forward Pierre-Alexandre Parenteau were put on waivers Monday as NHL teams pare down to their opening night rosters.

The Winnipeg Jets announced they put Pavelec on waivers with the intent of sending him to the AHL. The New York Islanders made their move with Parenteau three months after signing him to a $1.25 million, one-year contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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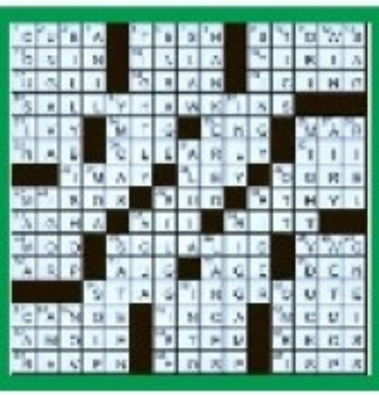

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6	8	7	3	9	5	1	4	2
5	3	9	4	1	2	7	6	8
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Concussion puts Sid's hot streak on hold

NHL

Pens ace playing best hockey of his life prior to latest setback

Sidney Crosby's health has been thrown into uncertainty again due to concussion concerns. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Sidney Crosby was playing the best hockey of his life. Now his extraordinary year is on hold and no one is sure when he will be back on the ice.

Pittsburgh said Monday that its superstar centre has been diagnosed with at least his third concussion just a few days before the defending Stanley Cup champion Penguins open their season.

Crosby has been in dominant form, clearly the best player in hockey. He finished as a Hart Trophy finalist as league MVP, won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP and led Team Canada to the World Cup title just a few months after winning his second Cup with the Penguins. His short- and long-term future is in doubt after another concussion, an injury that has dogged him off and on over six years.

Coach Mike Sullivan told reporters that Crosby was concussed in practice Friday and that there was no timetable for his return. The diagnosis came as the Penguins prepare to raise their championship banner Thursday night before a home game against Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals.

Sullivan declined to reveal how the concussion happened. General manager Jim Rutherford said Crosby was held out of the preseason finale against Columbus on Saturday because he wasn't feeling well and didn't practice Monday to go through concussion testing.

"Our medical staff will take the appropriate measures moving forward," Sullivan said.

The 29-year-old Crosby took blows to the head during the 2011 Winter Classic and in his next game that year, on Jan. 5 against the Tampa Bay Lightning. He was out until November. A hit Dec. 5 knocked him out until March, with the combined absences limiting Crosby to just 69 games over two seasons from 2010-2012. A broken jaw ended Crosby's lockout-shortened 2013 season.

Crosby has 338 goals and 600 assists in 707 NHL games. Four months ago, he led the Penguins to the fourth Cup in franchise history after piling up 85 points in 80 games.

Concussions have been a thorny issue for the NHL in recent years, as they have for the NFL and other sports. The league stiffened penalties for hits to the head in hopes of reducing injuries, but more than 100 former players have sued the NHL and alleged it had the resources to better prevent head trauma.

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Stampeders dish up a holiday roasting

CFL

Argos are left to lick wounds after Mitchell carves them up

MONDAY at BMO Field

48	20
STAMPS	ARGOS

Bo Levi Mitchell threw three TD strikes as the Calgary Stampeders clinched first in the West Division with a lopsided 48-20 win over the Toronto Argonauts on Monday afternoon.

Mitchell increased his league-leading total to 29 touchdown passes as Calgary (13-1-1) earned a 12th straight win and ran its CFL-record unbeaten streak to 14 games. Mitchell also improved to 41-7-1 as a starter and is 5-0 versus Toronto.

Mitchell was 18-of-27 passing for 281 yards before giving way to Drew Tate early in the fourth. Mitchell became just the second CFL quarterback to record 12 straight wins after Ken Ploen (1961, Winnipeg).

But the 14-game unbeaten streak broke the league mark Mitchell shared with former Edmonton great Warren Moon.

Calgary also beat Toronto (5-10) for the fifth straight time and sixth in seven games before a subdued BMO Field gathering of 14,224 on a brilliant fall afternoon. With the win, combined with Edmonton's 40-20 decision in Montreal, West teams have won 12 straight over East squads.

Toronto suffered its eighth loss in nine games and dropped to 2-6 at BMO Field. The Argos are still in playoff contention, but just barely with another meeting with the Stampeders at McMahon Stadium looming.

And there's no rest for the wicked as Toronto hosts Saskatchewan on Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argonauts' quarterback Drew Willy is sacked by Calgary Stampeders' Charleston Hughes on Monday at BMO Field.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

FIFA face legal action over 'slavery' in Qatar

A Dutch labour union said Monday it will launch legal action against FIFA if soccer's governing body does not step in to halt what it called "modern slavery" in the construction of venues for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Dutch union FNV, which is taking legal action along with 21-year-old Bangladeshi worker Nadim Shariful Alam, said it wants "FIFA to accept its responsibility and end exploitation of workers" in construction work ahead of the tournament.

The union is the latest organization to call for action against poor working conditions for labourers since Qatar was awarded the hosting rights. The gas-rich emirate is preparing eight new and renovated stadiums for the 2022 tournament.

Qatar is relying heavily on workers from south Asia who are tied to the "kafala" system of sponsorship common in Gulf nations, which critics say exposes migrants to exploitation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Belgium net quickest goal

Belgium scored the fastest goal in World Cup qualifying history when Christian Benteke slotted home against Gibraltar after only seven seconds Monday.

The previous record since detailed timing was kept was held by San Marino's Davide Gualtieri, who needed 8 seconds to score the opener against England in a 1993 qualifier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Time off for ill Bronco's coach

Broncos GM John Elway says doctors have ordered coach Gary Kubiak to take a week off after experiencing a migraine and that special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis will serve as interim coach Thursday night in San Diego.

Kubiak was lethargic following Denver's 23-16 loss to Atlanta on Sunday night and was hospitalized overnight after the game.

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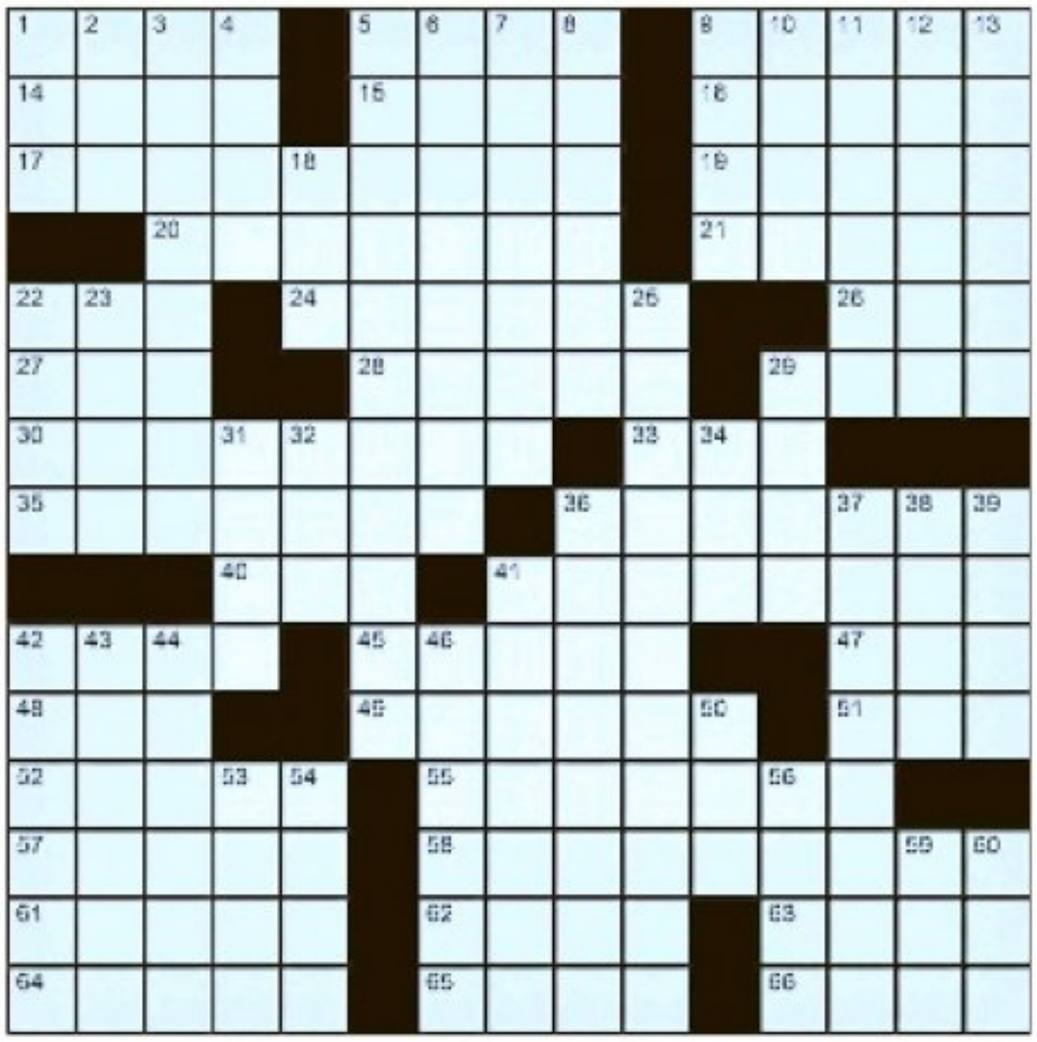
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Plug-less computer network connection
5. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn
9. Miss _ Lenya of Bobby Darin hit "Mack the Knife"
14. 'Switch' ender
15. "What's _ _ for me?"
16. Scarlett's home's namesakes
17. Thoroughfare in downtown Hamilton, _ _ . _ .
19. Scarlett's love
20. Spectator
21. _ _ message (Transmitted an e-mail, perhaps)
22. Entrepreneur's deg.
24. Ms. Burgess (Pro dancer who is #5-Down's partner on "Dancing with the Stars")
26. Foldaway cottage bed
27. _ _ B (Two basic options)
28. Angler's basket
29. If the fits ...what's missing?
30. Sang in The Alps
33. Reckon in Reno
35. Bland
36. 'Top line' in accounting
40. Bounced cheque acronym
41. "An American _ in London" (1981)
42. Succeeds
45. Impose upon
47. Fedora, for one
48. Ripen
49. Charm
51. Pals to CMs
52. _ out (Makes it with good fortune)
55. Wheeled serving table: 2 wds.
57. Journalist Ms. Couric
58. Implied/suggested
61. Matrikin
62. Convene
63. Bone dry
64. More pink, as steak
65. Country singer Mr. Arnold
66. Tiny teacher

DOWN

1. Spider's architecture
2. George Gershwin's brother
3. Some hockey players
4. Smidgen
5. As per #24-Across... James _ (IndyCar driver from Oakville, Ontario who is on the current season of "Dancing with the Stars")
6. Singular, as per ownership
7. Like a picture frame's corner joints
8. Forever, to a poet
9. Items in envelopes, for short
10. Dam of South Dakota
11. WWI fortification ditch
12. "Fantasy Island" character
13. Mansion's setting
18. Extra sports periods to break ties, briefly
22. Permission requester's opener...: 2 wds.
23. Business blessing
25. Cold Lake or Airdrie, for example: 2 wds.
29. Slow-cooked meal
31. One, in Munich
32. CDs predecessors
34. Adam and _
36. Ushered the concert-goers closer to the stage, say
37. Baseball pitcher's dream game
38. _ Bator (Mongolia's capital)
39. Terrestrial stage newts
41. Extended, such as a highway with additional lanes
42. Promenading person
43. Large lizard
44. Drink of the gods
46. Prompt: 2 wds.
50. St. Louis footballer
53. Up-in-the-sky toy
54. Clairvoyant
56. Carpentry tool
59. Leandro's operatic beloved
60. Dict. entry

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone close to you is enthusiastic today! Enjoy conversations with partners and close friends, and don't hesitate to make big plans.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It's easy to get the cooperation of others at work today, because people are in a good mood. Work-related travel also is likely

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Relations with children are upbeat and positive today. This also is a great day for romantic outings, the arts and anything to do with sports.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will enjoy making home improvements today or exploring real-estate opportunities. You're starting to feel hopeful about improving your home or getting a better one.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today you are aware of the power of positive thinking. You feel hopeful about your future and look forward to whatever you think is possible. Dream big!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Dealings with foreign interests are likely. Don't be afraid to stretch a little and take a chance.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you see the larger view of things, which allows you to make plans with foresight and wisdom. It's a particularly good day for business and finance.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are entertaining big dreams today, and it feels good. Double-check all details with work you are involved with, because big dreams sometimes cause you to overlook little things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You can organize the efforts of others today, because people are willing to follow your suggestions. Your positive frame of mind is what encourages people.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is an excellent day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Not only are people receptive to what you have to say, they are willing to entertain ambitious suggestions.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Travel plans look exciting! This is an excellent day to discuss lofty topics like philosophy, religion and politicss. This also is a good day to study anything and explore topics at school.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is an excellent day to decide how to share something or to discuss an inheritance. Whatever happens, you will be sure to get your fair share.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		9	2	8				
	6				5			
1		7				6		
9		4				2		
3			6			5		
	5				3	7		
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						9	7	1
							5	2

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Toronto – Orlando
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Windsor Palms - Emerald Island
January 22
1 wk

1st passenger $829 + $139 taxes & other fees
2nd passenger $415 + $139 taxes & other fees

Toronto – Orlando
FLORIDA
Loews Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal ★★★
Standard rm
January 24
5 nts
Kids stay & eat FREE[2]

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2nd passenger $489 + $139 taxes & other fees

Toronto – Ixtapa
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1 wk
PRIVILEGES Play

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